

18th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Agenda item 10: Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development

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Nordic statement

Delivered by:

Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations

Thank you, Chairperson,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries: Denmark together with Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Norway and my own country Sweden.

We are grateful for this opportunity to discuss the issue of sustainable development and the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples at a global level. As the road-map for sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda provides a solid platform for the policies needed to build sustainable societies. The implementation of the global goals is an essential priority for the governments of the Nordic countries, on the national and regional level as well as – as partners in development – in the global context.

We recognize that the international community has a shared responsibility to work vigorously towards the realisation of the sustainable development goals. Time is short– the nations of the world must act quickly to take decisive steps towards a sustainable future that offers a decent quality of life for current and future generations. However: success requires co-operation.

When realizing the sustainable development goals, attention must be given to indigenous peoples, which make up 5 per cent of the world's population, but represent no less than 15 per cent of the poorest. Indigenous peoples still lag

behind on most social and economic indicators. The 2030 Agenda pledges to “leave no one behind” and “endeavours to reach the furthest behind first”. This undertaking is key to the protection of indigenous peoples and a commitment by all governments. However, when implementing the sustainable development goals, we must not forget that indigenous peoples have much to contribute in this endeavour and thus must be engaged in all issues that concern them.

In 2014, at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, UN Member States agreed by consensus to further promote the realization of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The Outcome Document provides States with a useful road-map for the respect for the rights of indigenous peoples. It is now the responsibility of all states to live up to these commitments.

The participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making is important to ensure the fulfilment of the objectives of UNDRIP, as well as the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, and we are committed to keeping up our efforts in this regard.

Chairperson, the UN Declaration was a milestone in recognizing the status and rights of indigenous peoples, and fulfilling its objectives requires continuous and consistent work. Our Nordic governments remain committed to the UN Declaration which can contribute to our implementation of the 2030 Agenda.