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UNDP Statement

16th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - (Item 9)

**4 May 2017
(10:00 - 13:00 p.m.)
Conference Room 4**

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On behalf of Patrick Keuleers
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Madam Chair,

Honourable members of the Permanent Forum,

Distinguished delegates and representatives of indigenous peoples,

Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

1. It is an honour for UNDP to address the 16th Session of the Permanent Forum focusing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and we are pleased that we have been able to engage with you over the past week and a half of the Forum.
2. Engaging with indigenous peoples is a priority for UNDP and it is integral to our mandate to **mainstream a human rights-based approach** into our development policies and programmes.
3. As **Agenda 2030 is grounded in human rights and based on the principle of Leaving No One Behind** we see the implementation of the SDGs as one of the key strategic entry point for Indigenous Peoples to claim their rights at the global and national levels; as well as for accountability of us at the UN.
4. UNDP - as the host of the RC System - sees Agenda 2030 as a tool to promote and protect indigenous peoples rights at the national level. This is also translated in practice through the new UNDAF Programming Principles on “Leaving No One behind” as well as “Human Rights and Gender Equality”: this can ensure that these dimensions are taken into account in UNDAFs and that these principles inform guidance to national development plans.

5. We hereby reiterate our **commitment to indigenous peoples and our accountability** to them – to you. Exemplified through our commitment to Agenda 2030, the System-Wide Action Plan, our Social and Environmental Standards, and our country programmes that directly impact on indigenous peoples rights.
6. **At the country level**, contextualizing the commitment to “leave no-one behind” requires our UNDP teams to engage closely with Indigenous Organizations and reach the most remote communities.
7. **At the global level**, the HLPF in July 2017 will be on the theme of "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world" and will see 44 Member States present National Voluntary Reports. Including many where indigenous peoples live: the Permanent Forum members and indigenous and civil society organizations could remind and guide governments – and also us UN colleagues - to include specific aspects and dimensions related to indigenous peoples and how they are left behind, including statistics. In some of these countries UN Country Teams are providing support to the government for the development of the report.
8. We look forward to the recommendations of the Forum.
9. Thank you for the privilege to engage with you.