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**2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development****Update on indigenous peoples and the 2030 Agenda****Note by the Secretariat***Summary*

The present report provides an update on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from the perspective of indigenous peoples. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as an expert body to the Economic and Social Council, plays an important role in providing expert advice on how to ensure that the rights of indigenous peoples are effectively accounted for and realized in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The report includes substantive inputs from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues for the thematic reviews of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017, along with reflections on the theme of the high-level political forum in 2017, “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”.

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\* E/C.19/2017/1.



## I. Introduction

1. On 25 September 2015, the General Assembly, in its resolution [70/1](#), adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets. The 2030 Agenda is a universal, transformative and people-centred plan to achieve sustainable development, which emphasizes that, in its implementation no one will be left behind.

2. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which came into effect on 1 January 2016, has been acclaimed as being a transformative and ambitious worldwide agenda. The Sustainable Development Goals are also regarded as a step forward for indigenous peoples in comparison to the Millennium Development Goals, under which indigenous peoples' issues were largely missing, and were seldom included in national action plans. Furthermore, indigenous peoples had little voice or participation in the development, implementation and monitoring of the previous Goals.

3. Indigenous peoples were engaged from an early stage in the development of the 2030 Agenda and its Goals and targets. As a result of their significant participation and the support by Member States, General Assembly resolution [70/1](#), "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", makes six direct references to indigenous peoples, including in target 2.3 on agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers and target 4.5 on equal access to all levels of education. Moreover, the framework is based on the principles of human rights, equality, non-discrimination, sustainability and participation by right-holders, all of which are essential to indigenous peoples.

4. Nevertheless, major challenges to the rights of indigenous peoples remain in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular at the national level. Some of the main priorities for indigenous peoples are not reflected in the 2030 Agenda such as the principle of free, prior and informed consent and the right to self-determined development, as well as continued challenges related to lack of legal recognition of indigenous peoples and their individual and collective rights. Similarly, the absence of a culturally sensitive approach to development has been noted as a challenge for upholding indigenous peoples' rights and for the protection of their distinct cultures and ways of life.

5. To ensure that indigenous peoples are not left behind, it is essential that in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals full respect is given to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration constitutes a framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity, well-being and rights of the world's indigenous peoples, as well as guidance on how to ensure peaceful dialogue and development priorities between indigenous peoples, Member States and other stakeholders.

6. Overall, the 2030 Agenda provides a new opportunity to put indigenous peoples at the centre as right-holders and active agents of their own development, with the support of Member States, United Nations agencies, the private sector and others. As stated by the Secretary-General during the negotiation of the 2030 Agenda:

“The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must realize the rights of indigenous peoples across all the Goals. Indigenous peoples must not be left behind”.

7. The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in its capacity as an expert body reporting to the Economic and Social Council, has a key role to play in ensuring that the rights and priorities of indigenous peoples are promoted in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. This report provides substantive inputs from the Permanent Forum to the thematic discussions of the high-level political forum 2017.

8. The report aims to assess the degree to which progress for indigenous peoples is reflected in 2016, the first year of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and how indigenous peoples have been engaged at all levels. The report also addresses the annual theme of the high-level political forum<sup>1</sup> “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”, and of the Economic and Social Council,<sup>2</sup> “Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges”, provides guidance on how to ensure inclusion of indigenous peoples in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

## II. Overview of the 2030 Agenda from an indigenous perspective

9. The 2030 Agenda is a broad and universal policy agenda comprising integrated and indivisible Sustainable Development Goals and targets. The Agenda is based on a holistic and multidimensional understanding of development, which puts strong emphasis on human rights, the environment, social inclusion, equality, participation and economic progress.

10. Most of the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets are relevant to indigenous peoples’ rights and well-being: 156 of the 169 targets (92 per cent) are closely linked to human rights; and 73 of the 169 targets have substantial links to the United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples.<sup>3</sup>

### Specific references to indigenous peoples in the 2030 Agenda

11. In contrast to the Millennium Development Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals and targets include six explicit references to indigenous peoples. Two of the targets make specific references to indigenous peoples, committing to double the agricultural output of indigenous small-scale farmers (target 2.3) and to ensure equal access to education for indigenous children (target 4.5). There is also a strong commitment in the 2030 Agenda to empower and engage indigenous peoples in implementing and reviewing progress in achieving the Goals. At the national level, States are encouraged to include the contributions of indigenous peoples in the regular and inclusive reviews of progress (resolution 70/1, para. 79).

<sup>1</sup> See resolution 70/299.

<sup>2</sup> E/CN.6/2017/9, para. 7.

<sup>3</sup> Danish Institute for Human Rights (2016) — <http://sdg.humanrights.dk>.

**References to indigenous peoples in resolution 70/1****• Empowerment**

- People who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the Agenda include all children, youth, persons with disabilities (of whom more than 80 per cent live in poverty), people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, **indigenous peoples**, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants. (para. 23)

**• Education and learning**

- All people, irrespective of sex, age, race or ethnicity, and persons with disabilities, migrants, **indigenous peoples**, children and youth, especially those in vulnerable situations, should have access to life-long learning opportunities that help them acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and to participate fully in society. (para. 25)
- By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, **indigenous peoples** and children in vulnerable situations. (target 4.5)

**• Engagement**

- Our journey will involve Governments as well as parliaments, the United Nations system and other international institutions, local authorities, **indigenous peoples**, civil society, business and the private sector, the scientific and academic community — and all people. Millions have already engaged with, and will own, this Agenda. (para. 52)

**• End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**

- By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, **indigenous peoples**, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment. (target 2.3)

**• Participation in follow-up and review**

- Such reviews should draw on contributions from **indigenous peoples**, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities. National parliaments as well as other institutions can also support these processes. (para. 79)

### Indicators and data disaggregation

12. In March 2016, the Statistical Commission agreed, as a practical starting point, with the proposed global indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The proposed global indicator framework list, which was developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators,<sup>4</sup> comprises 230 indicators for the measurement of progress on the implementation of the Goals.<sup>5</sup> This list constitutes a practical starting point for global monitoring of the Goals and is subject to future technical refinement. At the national level, the global list of indicators will also function as a source of guidance for the development of national indicator frameworks to review national progress towards sustainable development.

13. Among the indicators on the global indicator list are several that are crucial to monitor progress for indigenous peoples. These include the indicators that measure income of small-scale food producers by indigenous status (indicator 2.3.2) and indigenous peoples' access to education (indicator 4.5.1). The proposed indicators to measure secure land rights (indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1) refer to "type of tenure", which can capture the dimension of collective land rights as essential to measure indigenous peoples' collective relationship to their lands, territories and resources. Of particular relevance is also the indicator on peoples' perception of discrimination based on prohibited grounds of discrimination in international human rights law (indicator 10.3.1 and 16.b.1), which may be used to trace progress on indigenous peoples' experiences of discrimination.

### Indicators relevant to indigenous peoples in the global list of indicators

| <i>2030 Agenda</i>                           | <i>Indicators crucial to monitoring progress for indigenous peoples</i>   |
|--|---|
| <b>Goal 1</b><br>Target 1.2<br>(No poverty)  | 1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age   |
| <b>Goal 1</b><br>Target 1.4<br>(Land rights) | 1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure   |
| <b>Goal 2</b><br>Target 2.3<br>(Zero hunger) | 2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status  |
| <b>Goal 4</b><br>Target 4.5<br>(Education)   | 4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict affected as data become available) for all indicators on this list that can be disaggregated |

<sup>4</sup> The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the SDG indicators is a subgroup of the Statistical Commission.

<sup>5</sup> [E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1](#), annex IV.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Goal 5</b><br>Target 5.a<br>(Gender equality)      | 5.a.1 (a) Percentage of people with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land (out of total agricultural population), by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure      |
| <b>Goal 10</b><br>Target 10.3<br>(Non-discrimination) | 10.3.1 Percentage of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the last 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law <sup>6</sup> |

14. There has also been an overall focus on data disaggregation, which is essential to the monitoring of progress for indigenous peoples. The 2030 Agenda calls for States “to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts” (target 17.18).

15. While progress has been made in some countries, it remains a major challenge to ensure that official statistics include “indigenous identifiers”, for example through questions on language, geography or self-identification. This is necessary to make indigenous peoples visible in statistics, and to be able to disaggregate data and capture the inequalities indigenous peoples face under all of the Sustainable Development Goals.

16. The Latin American region, with technical support from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), has seen major progress in the inclusion of questions on self-identification in their censuses and national statistics. While in the census round of 1990 only two countries had included criteria related to self-identification, by the time of the 2010 census, 21 countries had incorporated such criteria.<sup>7</sup>

17. Good practices in formulating questions for self-identification<sup>8</sup> are emerging from the region with relevance to ensuring statistical visibility of indigenous peoples and disaggregation of data within the framework of target 17.18 of the 2030 Agenda.

### **Human rights, equality and non-discrimination**

18. The 2030 Agenda is grounded on the principles of human rights, human dignity, non-discrimination, equality and participation that are essential for

<sup>6</sup> This indicator on discrimination and harassment is repeated under two targets (10.3 and 16.b).

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.cepal.org/en/pressreleases/eclac-supports-statistical-visibility-and-participation-indigenous-peoples-2030-agenda>.

<sup>8</sup> Fabiana Del Popolo and Susana Schkolnik (2013), “Pueblos indígenas y afrodescendientes en los censos de población y vivienda de América Latina: avances y desafíos en el derecho a la información”, ECLAC, *Notas de Población*, vol. 40, N° 97 (<http://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/37682-notas-poblacion-vol40-ndeg-97>).

indigenous peoples' access to all of their rights. This includes the 2030 Agenda's overarching theme and aim to "leave no one behind".

19. Indigenous peoples make up 5 per cent of the world's population, but comprise 15 per cent of the world's poorest communities. They are often among the most vulnerable and marginalized sections of society. Indigenous peoples, in over five centuries of conquest, colonization and assimilation, have been dispossessed of their lands, territories and resources, prevented from living according to their own cultures and traditions, forbidden to speak their own languages and left behind in innumerable other ways. They are one of the core groups that the 2030 Agenda seeks to reach.

20. As a universal framework to be addressed equally by developed and developing countries, the 2030 Agenda has relevance to indigenous peoples all over the world, including those living in high-income countries, where national statistical averages have often concealed structural inequalities and the deprived social and economic status of indigenous populations.

21. In addition, the 2030 Agenda, which is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights treaties (resolution 70/1, para. 10), emphasizes the responsibilities of States to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status (*ibid.*, para. 19). The Agenda also highlights the importance of its implementation "in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law" (*ibid.*, para. 18).

22. Equality and non-discrimination are emphasized as main principles throughout the 2030 Agenda, including under two equality-related Goals, one on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (Goal 5) and the other on reducing inequality within and among countries (Goal 10). The Agenda also contains a pledge to promote equality across all 17 goals through commitments: to inclusion; to leave no one behind; to reaching those furthest behind first; and to data disaggregation to track inequalities.

23. Furthermore, the participation of right-holders in the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda is assured, and is one of the main elements ensuring the accountability of Member States to the 2030 Agenda as an aspirational document.

#### **Gaps and challenges in the 2030 Agenda**

24. Despite the above advances, the Sustainable Development Goals still have a number of gaps and may also involve potential risks for indigenous peoples.

25. During the fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum, indigenous peoples raised concerns over the general lack of recognition of indigenous peoples' collective rights in the 2030 Agenda in terms of land, health, education, culture and ways of living. Indigenous peoples rights are strongly grounded in article 1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which states that "Indigenous peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and international human rights law".

26. The concept of self-determination, as enshrined in articles 3 and 4 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and essential to the right of indigenous peoples to define their economic, political, social and cultural development, is also not strongly reflected. While the 2030 Agenda recognizes poverty as a multidimensional and not only monetary phenomenon, there is a recurring emphasis on growth in gross domestic product (GDP), industrialization and increased production that threatens to undermine indigenous peoples' holistic approaches to development. The principle of "free, prior and informed consent", as guaranteed in the ILO No. Convention 169 (the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention) and in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, is not referred to in the 2030 Agenda, although "free, prior and informed consent" is essential in order to ensure respect for indigenous peoples' rights to self-determination as well as other indigenous rights.

27. The 2030 Agenda has also been criticized by indigenous peoples for its lack of culture sensitivity across several Goals, including health and education. For instance, mother-tongue education, which has been repeatedly noted and called for as essential to addressing indigenous peoples' disadvantages in the school system and society at large, is included neither in the targets nor indicators of the Agenda.<sup>9</sup>

28. While welcoming the grounding of the 2030 Agenda on a human rights basis, more can be done to ensure that its implementation also follows a human rights-based approach by adhering to principles of empowerment, inclusion and participation of indigenous peoples as equal partners. Furthermore, not only Governments but also the private sector needs to be held accountable for respecting the rights of indigenous peoples. In this regard, indigenous peoples have expressed a need to change the current mind-set from a focus on indigenous peoples as recipients of assistance to recognition of indigenous peoples as active right-holders and participants in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.<sup>10</sup>

29. The contributions of indigenous peoples to sustainable development are an important factor in implementing the 2030 Agenda. Much of the world's natural resources and biologically diverse areas are contained within the traditional lands and territories of indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples can inspire and share their wealth of traditional knowledge and practices related to sustainable agriculture, seed diversity, traditional health and medical plants, ecosystem management and communal justice practices, and they must be given the opportunity to participate actively at all levels, from national to global forums, and to make their voices and concerns heard in the implementation processes of the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, further capacity-building of all development actors, including States, the private sector and indigenous peoples, is essential to ensure a full understanding of the links between indigenous peoples' rights and the Sustainable Development Goals.

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<sup>9</sup> See [E/C.19/2016/10](#).

<sup>10</sup> See [E/HLPF/2016/2](#).

**General Assembly resolution 71/178 on the rights of indigenous peoples**

30. In 2016, the Member States recommitted themselves to ensuring that the rights of indigenous peoples are at the centre of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The General Assembly, in its resolution 71/178, stressed “the need to ensure that no one is left behind, including indigenous peoples, who will benefit from and participate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda”.

31. In its resolution 71/178, Member States were also encouraged to “give due consideration to all the rights of indigenous peoples in fulfilling the commitments undertaken in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the elaboration of national programmes”, to “consider including in their voluntary national reviews for the high-level political forum on sustainable development and their national and global reports information related to indigenous peoples on progress made and challenges in implementation of the 2030 Agenda”, and to “compile disaggregated data to measure progress and to ensure that no one is left behind”.

32. This commitment addressed the main recommendations contained in the report of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its fifteenth session, which highlighted three main priorities for indigenous peoples in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: (a) data disaggregation; (b) participation of indigenous peoples in developing national action plans; and (c) participation of indigenous peoples in follow-up and review:

“Consistent with articles 18 and 19 of the United Nations Declaration and in line with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the call to ‘leave no one behind’, the Permanent Forum strongly recommends that States and funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system ensure the disaggregation of data on the basis of indigenous identifiers/ethnicity and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in developing and monitoring national action plans and in all processes relating to the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including at the high-level political forum on sustainable development”.<sup>11</sup>

33. These commitments are relevant at the national level in the process of developing national action plans on the 2030 Agenda, national indicator frameworks, mechanisms for consultations, programmes and budgets as well as mechanisms for follow-up and review.

### **III. Monitoring progress of indigenous peoples in implementing the 2030 Agenda**

34. In 2016, indigenous peoples have continued their engagement in the implementation the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. They have participated actively at national, regional and global levels to ensure that the voice and rights of indigenous peoples are respected and promoted as the 2030 Agenda is being operationalized and implemented across the world. This

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<sup>11</sup> E/2016/43, para. 28.

section highlights the engagement of indigenous peoples and the progress achieved at various levels.

### **High-level political forum 2016**

35. Representatives of indigenous peoples participated in the first high-level political forum held after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, which took place in New York from 11 to 20 July 2016. The indigenous peoples major group, as one of the nine major groups reporting to the Economic and Social Council, was present with a delegation at the meetings of the forum and made statements both at the general thematic discussions, as well as during the national voluntary reviews. The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was represented by the Chair of the Forum.

36. The ministerial declaration adopted as the outcome document of the high-level political forum<sup>12</sup> included one reference to indigenous peoples, related to “leaving no one behind” and empowering the vulnerable. In the declaration, Member States committed:

“to focusing our efforts where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind. We deem it of critical importance, in this regard, to protect and empower people who are vulnerable. We recall that those whose needs are reflected in the 2030 Agenda include all children, adolescents, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons, migrants and peoples living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies, and peoples in areas affected by terrorism and conflict”.<sup>13</sup>

37. As a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues provided substantive inputs to the thematic review of the high-level political forum in 2016, highlighting the need to ensure that indigenous peoples are not left behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The substantive inputs advanced the recommendations made by the Permanent Forum at its fifteenth session, highlighting, in particular, the need for disaggregated data, the need for the participation of indigenous peoples in developing and reviewing national action plans and the need for full respect and promotion of indigenous peoples’ rights, as reflected in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The substantive inputs were included and are available in the online review platform with inputs for the high-level political forum.<sup>14</sup>

38. Indigenous issues were also raised at the high-level political forum through side events<sup>15</sup> and outreach. Furthermore, the Chair of the Forum was invited as a lead discussant in the panel “Ensuring that no one is left behind — envisioning an

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<sup>12</sup> E/HLS/2016/1, available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., para. 5.

<sup>14</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/input>.

<sup>15</sup> A side event was hosted by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations and ECLAC.

inclusive world in 2030” on the opening day of the high-level political forum. A representative of the indigenous peoples major group also advocated the inclusion of indigenous rights in this process and participated during the thematic discussions as well as the voluntary national reviews.

### **National voluntary reviews at the high-level political forum in 2016**

39. Out of the 22 national voluntary reviews discussed during the high-level political forum in 2016, seven mentioned indigenous peoples in their reports, either as a global priority or as a national concern.<sup>16</sup> The main issues referred to in those reports included the acknowledgement of indigenous peoples as a group at risk of being left behind, the importance of obtaining data on indigenous peoples, mechanisms of consultation with indigenous peoples in the 2030 Agenda and the socioeconomic situation of indigenous peoples.

40. Among the national voluntary reports addressing indigenous peoples, some good practices were highlighted in terms of ensuring indigenous peoples participation in national action plans and follow-up and review processes. For example, the report of Norway highlighted that the *Sámediggi* (Sami Parliament) will participate in implementation and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals and that indigenous peoples had been consulted in formulating the national voluntary review.<sup>17</sup> Similarly, the report of Finland noted that the National Commission on Sustainable Development, which has a mandate to follow up on the 2030 Agenda, includes one indigenous representative, the President of the Finnish Sámi Parliament.<sup>18</sup> In terms of national indicators for the 2030 Agenda, Mexico, Uganda and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), in their national voluntary reports, discussed the inclusion of some of the global indicators referring to indigenous peoples into their mapping of national targets and indicators.

41. On 29 July 2016, the General Assembly adopted resolution [70/299](#), “Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level”, in paragraph 7 of which it reiterated its commitment to include various stakeholders in the voluntary national reviews by referring to paragraph 79 of resolution [70/1](#), which contains a specific reference to indigenous peoples.

### **Global reports on sustainable development**

42. Indigenous peoples were also included in the two global reports that fed into the discussions at the high-level political forum, which took stock of the achievements made thus far in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

43. The quadrennial *Global Sustainable Development Report*,<sup>19</sup> which was designed as an assessment report rather than a report pioneering new knowledge, presented a range of scientific perspectives relevant to the 2030 Agenda. The report makes several references to indigenous peoples and has a specific section on indigenous peoples’ inclusion and role in parliaments.

<sup>16</sup> See <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/inputs>.

<sup>17</sup> See national report of Norway (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016/norway>).

<sup>18</sup> See national report of Finland (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016/finland>).

<sup>19</sup> The *Global Sustainable Development Report* is available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/globalsdreport/2016>.

44. The 2016 *Sustainable Development Goals Report*,<sup>20</sup> the inaugural report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, provided a baseline and analysis of selected indicators from the global indicator framework for which data were available in 2016. The report makes reference to indigenous peoples under narratives related to “leaving no one behind”, but the data presented are not disaggregated so as to provide a baseline measure for indigenous peoples. Data was also not available under Goals 2 and 4, both of which explicitly mention and contain indicators referring to indigenous peoples.

#### **Developing indicators and data disaggregation**

45. As discussed above, the global Sustainable Development Goals indicator list, which was agreed upon as a starting point by the Statistical Commission in March 2016, makes reference to indicators relevant for and proposed by indigenous peoples (see para. 13 above).

46. Some of the indicators in the global list are still undergoing revision/review by Member States through the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>21</sup> Indigenous peoples who have participated in this process, primarily through the indigenous peoples major group, emphasized, in particular, the need to ensure data disaggregation according to indigenous or ethnic status.

47. Of greatest importance now are the national processes of identifying indicators to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, indigenous peoples are calling on Member States to include the global indicators that are relevant to indigenous peoples in addition to developing further indicators that reflect indigenous priorities at national level (including, for instance, recognition of indigenous identity and communal land). Furthermore, the inclusion of indigenous identifiers in national censuses and other sources of statistics is an overall priority in order to ensure disaggregation across all other indicators, as discussed above.

48. Cooperation between national statistical offices and indigenous communities to integrate community-based data into national statistics as a supplement to official statistics has also been highlighted as a good practice. For example the Indigenous Navigator project<sup>22</sup> provides data that reflects both the subjective and objective assessments of indigenous communities with regard to the degree of access to the rights set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It also covers essential aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals from the perspective of indigenous peoples on the ground and could in this way supplement official national statistics on indigenous issues.

#### **Regional and national level implementation**

49. In 2016, Member States began discussing first steps to implement the 2030 Agenda at the national level, including through the development of national actions plans. It is crucial that States include indigenous peoples in their planning and

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<sup>20</sup> The *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2016* is available at: <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2016/>.

<sup>21</sup> See <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/>.

<sup>22</sup> Information about the Indigenous Navigator project is available at: [www.indigenousnavigator.org/statistics](http://www.indigenousnavigator.org/statistics).

budgets, as well as in their targets and indicators to implement and review the 2030 Agenda. It is essential that indigenous peoples engage with their Governments, including by advancing concrete suggestions on how to ensure that their rights are reflected in the context of their own particular country. For this purpose, permanent consultation mechanisms need to be established or revitalized. At the country level, entities of the United Nations system can provide support and guidance on good practices on dialogue and consultations involving indigenous peoples. The United Nations system-wide action plan on indigenous peoples (2016) provides guidance to the organizations of the entire United Nations system on how to ensure a coherent approach to the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including action elements related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

50. As set out in the 2030 Agenda, Governments have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review, at the national, regional and global levels, in relation to the progress made in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and targets (resolution 70/1, para. 47). Concrete entry points for indigenous peoples at the national level include multi-stakeholder briefings, consultations, workshops and capacity-building activities as well as national commissions established as platforms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

51. Follow-up and review at regional level will focus on identifying regional trends, providing a space for peer-reviews and addressing specific regional challenges. In 2016, the regional commissions organized a number of regional forums on sustainable development as a preparation for the high-level political forum. Representatives of indigenous peoples participated in some of the meetings of the regional forums, including those held in the Asia-Pacific and Latin American regions. The regional forums which are scheduled for 2017 will also provide important platforms for indigenous peoples, including by ensuring learning across countries on efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

#### **IV. Reflections on the theme of the high-level political forum in 2017: “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”, from the perspective of indigenous peoples**

52. In 2017, the high-level political forum will consider the theme “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world” and will also review Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14. All of these Goals are relevant to the concerns of indigenous peoples, who are often among the most vulnerable, poor and marginalized.

53. Indigenous peoples’ poverty is often a consequence of structural discrimination and marginalization. As such, the ambition of the 2030 Agenda to ensure equality of opportunity and outcome by addressing discriminatory laws and practices is crucial in order to ensure real progress in the eradication of poverty among indigenous peoples. Therefore, while implementation of the Goals related to poverty eradication, zero hunger, good health and well-being and access to education are essential in addressing the persistent marginalization indigenous

peoples face, these Goals need to be implemented in combination with a focus on human rights and in concert with implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 10 on social, economic and political inclusion.

54. The Goals related to secure land rights (under Goals 1 and 5), equal rights to economic resources (target 1.4), equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources and traditional knowledge (target 2.5), the promotion of resilient and sustainable agricultural practices (target 2.3) and the maintenance of seed diversity (target 2.5) are also of great importance in efforts to eradicate poverty in indigenous communities.

55. Indigenous peoples are closely attached to their lands, territories and resources. Land is not merely an economic and productive asset for indigenous peoples, but a defining element of their identity, culture and relationship to ancestors and future generations. However, lands, territories and resources have also been the source of most of the conflicts and human rights violations that indigenous peoples have faced, and continue to face.

56. In cases where the shift towards renewable and clean energy projects, such as hydropower dams, threaten their lands, indigenous peoples face new risks. It is therefore necessary to secure indigenous peoples' land rights, as stipulated in international law, in particular ILO Convention No. 169 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular to ensure the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in all matters related to land and development priorities.

57. In this regard, there is a need to recognize indigenous land tenure systems as well as the special needs of indigenous nomadic and semi-nomadic communities, such as hunter-gatherers and pastoralist communities. Land demarcation and titling, protection against land grabbing and encroachment, as well as mechanisms of redress, are crucial to protect indigenous peoples and ensure that they are not left behind.

## **V. Conclusions and focus areas in 2017 in light of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

### **Implementing the 2030 Agenda with full respect for the rights of indigenous peoples**

58. Member States are encouraged to give due consideration to all the rights of indigenous peoples in fulfilling the commitments undertaken in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the elaboration of national programmes. By protecting and promoting the rights of indigenous peoples, as reflected in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, States will be able to overcome remaining challenges faced by indigenous peoples and thereby ensure that they are not left behind.

**Making indigenous peoples visible in data and in the review of the 2030 Agenda**

59. To ensure that no one is left behind, the 2030 Agenda calls for States “to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts” (resolution 70/1, target 17.18). Data-disaggregation according to indigenous identity across all Sustainable Development Goals and targets is important to follow the progress for indigenous peoples.

60. At national level, this would involve supporting indigenous peoples in identifying relevant indicators for national indicator frameworks, including integrating relevant global indicators and defining additional national indicators. Furthermore, ensuring data-disaggregation and recognition of indigenous identity in national statistics (censuses, surveys and other sources of statistics) would be helpful in assessing progress for indigenous peoples compared to other sections of the population. The integration of community-based data by indigenous peoples into national statistics and reports on the 2030 Agenda is a way to further include the perspectives of indigenous peoples in the follow-up process.

61. At the global level, under the Statistical Commission, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators could support the further methodological development of the relevant indicators reflecting indigenous peoples’ priorities, including, in particular, indicators 1.4.2, 2.3.2 and 4.51.

**Ensuring indigenous peoples’ participation in implementation, follow-up and review processes**

62. The 2030 Agenda calls for indigenous peoples to walk with Member States and other stakeholders on the road to 2030, including by participating in follow-up and review. With regard to national level implementation of the Agenda, indigenous peoples can contribute to the development of national action plans, as well as towards follow-up and review nationally, regionally and globally at the high-level political forum for sustainable development.

63. In terms of follow-up and review, Member States are encouraged to consider including in their voluntary national reviews for the high-level political forum on sustainable development and in their national and global reports in this regard, information related to indigenous peoples on progress made and challenges faced in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This can be done through establishing or revitalizing permanent consultation mechanisms between indigenous peoples and Member States.

64. As custodians of many of the world’s most biodiverse areas, protectors of the Earth and experts in traditional knowledge on sustainable living, indigenous peoples have much to contribute to the 2030 Agenda and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for all.