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United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Fourteenth Session

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Agenda Items 6 and 3 (b) Comprehensive dialogue with United Nations agencies and funds on the post-2015 development agenda

Madam Chair, members of the Permanent Forum, Indigenous leaders, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen;

I speak today on behalf of the Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network and the Global Disability Caucus – a network representing indigenous persons with disabilities from all seven geographical regions of the indigenous peoples, and in support of the call made by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) as well as the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) in urging member states to deliver a post-2015 development agenda that is inclusive of persons with disabilities and supported by a robust implementation framework.

As indigenous persons with disabilities, we endorse this joint efforts by the global disability community being the collective voice of about 1 billion people with disabilities and therefore recommend that:

1. All national plans, development strategies and/ or mechanisms established to help implement the post-2015 development agenda should complement and support the national implementation and reporting requirements of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). This resonates well with the UN Secretary-General's call for coherence between the post-2015 development agenda and current internationally recognized human rights standards which includes the UNCRPD.
2. A clear financing framework must be developed and committed to mobilizing sufficient public and private resources to meet the rights of all persons with disabilities, including indigenous persons with disabilities, and to 'leave no one behind'. To achieve the SDGs, it will be essential to mobilize sufficient levels of aid and other forms of international public finance, as well as private sector finance and domestic resources, and that these resources are used to support both disability-specific services and disability-inclusive mainstream services, such as social protection measures, healthcare and education.
3. Effective regulatory and safeguard policies and appropriate redress mechanisms are developed to ensure that the rights of all persons with disabilities, including indigenous persons with disabilities are actively promoted in the funding and resources for the post-2015 development implementation. We welcome the growing commitment to the principle 'leave no one behind'. Activities undertaken to achieve the SDGs must therefore be compatible with this principle and not create or perpetuate legal, institutional, attitudinal, physical, and information or technological barriers that will result in the exclusion and lack of participation of persons with disabilities which in turn result in persons with disabilities, including indigenous persons with disabilities being left behind yet again.
4. To ensure that the SDGs are inclusive of persons with disabilities and leave no one behind, the indicators that track progress should also disaggregate data by disability and other social or economic groupings. Disaggregating data by disability will provide greater certainty to activities designed to prevent or reduce inequalities between persons with disabilities and their non-disabled counterparts.

To conclude Madam Chair, only an inclusive and empowered society will ensure that no one is left behind. We therefore call on the Permanent Forum to ensure that persons with disabilities, including