

DRAFT 8 April, 2015
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
14th session, 20 April to 1 May 2015

Item 3 b: Post-2015 development agenda

Arctic Indigenous Caucus

Delivered by Lars Anders Baer, Saami Council

Madam/Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Members of the Permanent Forum, Excellences and Observers,

The Arctic Indigenous Caucus applauds the diligent work of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG) on the Post-2015 development process of the United Nations. In particular, we note the IPMGs strong call for human rights based approach to the post-2015 development agenda when dealing with economic, social, cultural, environmental, political and institutional dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We agree with the IPMG when it stresses - in its briefing note on "indigenous peoples in the post-2015 development framework" - that for the SDGs to be truly universal, they must respect indigenous peoples' rights to lands, territories and resources and must affirm the central contribution of indigenous peoples to addressing problems such as social exclusion and poverty, loss of biological and cultural diversity, and climate change.

The outcome document of the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) likewise represents an important source of input to the post-2015 development agenda as it notes that indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop its priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development, and in that regard commits to give due consideration to all the rights of indigenous peoples when elaborating the post-2015 agenda. Combined with the overarching commitment to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples this provides for a strong mandate to propose recommendations to the development and wording of the SDGs.

To highlight one of the specific recommendations linked to the current list of goals being elaborated in the post-2015 process an obvious choice would be the proposal to include, under "Governance," the recognition of indigenous peoples' right to self-determination and self-governance, including customary governance systems, and to ensure that Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as well as the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, including women, youth, elders and persons with disabilities, is implemented in all development-related decisions that affect them at all levels.

In this context I want to mention that post-2015 agenda related matters was discussed at the European Union regional "Informal Brainstorming and Consultation Workshop on the Review for a Strengthened EU Policy on Indigenous Peoples" in Brussels on March 23-24 2015.

We commend the European Union on the initiative to review its policy, and we stand fully committed to collaborate with the European Commission and the European External Action Service in this process. Further, we welcome the initiative to organize a Global Consultation Workshop with indigenous peoples this coming Sunday April 26, here in New York at One United Nations Plaza in from 9.30 a.m.-17.30 p.m as part of this review. More information about registration and the agenda you can find at Permanent Forums web-side.

We hope that many indigenous participants, EU Member States and development agencies will attend the workshop, for a constructive dialogue on a strengthened EU policy on indigenous peoples.

Madame chair,

To conclude this brief statement in support of indigenous peoples' active participation in the post-2015 development process, the Arctic Indigenous Caucus wishes to urge all indigenous peoples to get involved sooner than later and to take ownership of the process.