

High level Plenary Meeting of the 69th Session of UN General Assembly to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) September 22-23, 2014, UN Headquarters, New York

Indigenous Priorities for the Post 2015 Development Agenda

Statement of the Asia IP Caucus and the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

In the coming year, the UNGA will adopt a set of Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda. The first Outcome Document of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals comes as a very deep disappointment for indigenous peoples, in its failure to incorporate our core needs and concerns.

The Asian Indigenous Caucus and the Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact therefore call on all governments to work with indigenous peoples to ensure that the post -2015 development agenda becomes meaningful for indigenous peoples.

The WCIP Outcome Document, adopted yesterday by acclamation by the high level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, in Paragraph 37 “notes that indigenous peoples’ have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development and commits to give due consideration to all rights of indigenous peoples in the elaboration of the post 2015 development agenda.” Other paragraphs recognize indigenous peoples’ knowledge, sciences, technologies and cultures in ecosystem management, diverse local economies and climate change mitigation and adaptation. These provide a good foundation for collaboration between States and Indigenous Peoples.

In the context of indigenous peoples in Asia, we wish to make the following recommendations:

1. Implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), is essential, including respecting free, prior, informed consent (FPIC) in the promulgation of laws, policies and programmes, in particular those affecting our LTRs and well-being.

What is the context, faced by Indigenous Peoples in Asia?

The ASEAN 2015 Economic Integration and Investment Plan, and Energy and Development Plan of South Asia together include more than one hundred large hydro-dams, massive infrastructure projects such as roads and railways cutting across indigenous territories, land conversion to commercial agriculture, and bio-fuel plantations. These were formulated without the participation and consent of indigenous peoples.

2. The post-2015 development agenda must explicitly address the security of tenure and land rights of indigenous peoples as prerequisites for sustainable development. The highest standards on business and human rights must be upheld.

Otherwise massive resource extraction, land grabbing, land conversion, and privatization of collective lands of indigenous peoples will worsen, resulting in deeper poverty, inequalities, marginalization, and disempowerment of indigenous peoples.

3. Appropriate targets, indices and indicators to protect the rights and enhance the wellbeing and sustainable development of indigenous peoples shall be developed, consistent with our worldviews, distinct cultures, ways of life and distinct relationships with our lands, territories and resources.

Data dis-aggregation is thereby necessary in relation to measuring the health, education, employment and access to other basic social services of indigenous peoples including persons with dis-abilities and on the specific conditions of indigenous women, in line with the general SDG goal on gender.