

**Panel Discussion on Indigenous Priorities for the Post 2015 Sustainable
Development Agenda
23rd September, 2014
Opening Remarks by co-chair, Jannie Lasimbang**

Distinguished Heads of State and Government,
Distinguished Ministers,
Excellencies,
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you, Your Excellency Co-Chair,

Kopivosian, Greetings. I want to take this opportunity to thank the President of the General Assembly for the recognition of indigenous peoples participation in the whole process leading to this World Conference and for my appointment as co-chair in this Panel discussion. I am deeply honoured and I look forward to your active participation. I also want to express my deep appreciation to all those involved in the negotiations on the Outcome Document for your active engagement and the seriousness with which you have given to further the rights of indigenous peoples.

The WCIP Outcome Document will set the context for future work on indigenous peoples' issues. In regards sustainable development for indigenous peoples, the relevant paragraphs are contained in 10 – 17, 20 - 26, and 34 - 37. I quote in particular OP 37, which notes the right of indigenous peoples to determine and develop priorities and strategies in exercising their right to development, and the commitment by States to give due consideration to ALL rights of indigenous peoples in the elaboration of the post 2015 development agenda. I put emphasis here on “ALL rights of indigenous peoples”.

In my view, this panel provides a unique space for focused multilateral discussions towards a better understanding of the scope and contents of the rights affirmed to indigenous peoples, and how the implementation of these rights can be advanced. The Member State-led Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals released its report on 19 July 2014, and this report will serve as the main basis for

integrating the sustainable development goals into the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the Member State negotiations over the next few months. The post-2015 development agenda and the SDG process thus far, however, shows that implementation of indigenous peoples' rights is an issue among many States. This commitment in the WCIP Outcome Document therefore spells hope for indigenous peoples to continue to engage in the process.

Indigenous peoples are amongst the poorest in the world, representing 15 % of the world's poor but only 5% of the world's total population. Systemic poverty exacerbates inequality, especially for indigenous women, children, youth and persons with disabilities who are particularly affected by the lack of access to housing, health and education and other services. Non-sustainable development, extractive industries' practices, and policies will have direct impacts on them. The Post 2015 Development Agenda must therefore ensure that indigenous peoples are adequately covered by the sustainable development goals, targets and indicators in order to address this condition and their overall wellbeing.

It is important to recognise that, for the Post 2015 Development Agenda to be relevant to indigenous peoples, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration) must be integrated into all its aspects. The commitments made in the WCIP Outcome Document provides the impetus for the Declaration to be integrated in the post 2015 development agenda.

At the national and international level, efforts must be made to ensure policy requirements to protect the rights of indigenous peoples are universally applied. This also applies to all UN agencies, programmes and funds, including the World Bank, in particular in its current efforts to revise its Environmental and Social Safeguards.

In conclusion, I urge for a spirit of cooperation and dialogue that are substantial and constructive, thereby making a solid contribution to the advancement of the rights of indigenous peoples in the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Thank you and lets make this a productive session.
