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Statement delivered by:

Laetitia Zobel, Focal Point on Indigenous Peoples Issues, Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch,
Division of Regional Cooperation, UNEP

Madame Chair, Members of the Forum, dear Secretariat, colleagues and friends, distinguished Delegates.

It is UNEP's honor to address the 10th Session of the Forum today and we would like to congratulate the Forum to its 10th anniversary whole heartily. The Forum has undertaken highly important work in this past decade in collaboration with indigenous peoples world wide as well as governments, NGOs and UN-agencies to achieve progress in implementing the rights of indigenous peoples. Thank you for your constructive and effective efforts to achieve our common goals. We would like to also extend our warm welcome to the new Forum members who have been taking office earlier this year and to you Madame Chair and the new Chief of the Secretariat, in particular.

UNEP is also very pleased of having Mr. Paul Kanyinke Sena who is based in Kenya as a member of the Forum. Mr. Sena, is working on environmental issues, so we have benefited from frequent meetings and exchanges with him.

UNEP has been working over the last years on the enhancement of Indigenous Peoples engagement with UNEP, including relevant guidelines, which will assist UNEP staff to develop and implement projects and programmes, taking into account indigenous people issues and involving indigenous peoples as equal partners when appropriate.

Another important initiative and process within UNEP which takes into account Indigenous Peoples views includes the development of the fifth *Global Environment Outlook (GEO)* through which UNEP provides an important tool for countries' informed decision making. GEO is based on a consultative, participatory process. GEO-5 will describe the state and trends of the environment using an indicator-based analysis. It will have an outlook section and provide policy options for action. A new feature in GEO-5 is the policy analysis that will be conducted at the regional level to assess promising policy options which could help countries speed up realizing of the internationally agreed goals they signed up to. UNEP also invited indigenous peoples representatives to participate in this consultation. through experts who would participate as GEO-5 authors, reviewers or as members of the GEO-5 Science and Policy Board or the High Level

Intergovernmental Advisory Panel. The lists of selected experts is available on the GEO website: www.unep.org/geo.

UNEP is intensively involved in the preparations for the RIO+20 Conference which UNEP considers as a historic opportunity to take ambitious decisions that set the stage for transforming the paradigm of Sustainable Development and that could signal the political will to move to such transformation, in light of the considerably greater understanding of the issues of Sustainable Development.

At the Fourth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV) held earlier this month in Istanbul, UNEP, UNCTAD and the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) launched the common report entitled: "*Why a green economy matters for the least developed countries*". The developed and emerging countries face the costs linked to retiring inefficient fossil fuel-based technologies. LDCs, where many indigenous peoples live, can avoid these hurdles by maintaining and expanding sustainable economic activities they are already utilizing. For example, low-carbon, labour-intensive agriculture and community-based forestry are sustainable practices that have existed for decades or even centuries in these countries, and they will be central elements in greening these sectors.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite the participants of this Forum to a side event on the Green Economy and Indigenous Peoples which will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, 17 May during the lunch time at UNEP's office in DC 2 on 8th floor. UNEP is planning to provide an insight into its work on Green Economy. UNEP is inviting for an exchange of ideas with participants and indigenous peoples in particular to shape the dialogue around themes of interest in the green economy context. We hope to develop this constructive dialogue over the coming months leading to the RIO+20 Conference in 2012 and beyond in order to strengthen the engagement with all the Major Groups and indigenous peoples towards a fair transformation of certain green economy sectors, such as the forest, fisheries, and agricultural sectors.

I would also like to draw your attention to another side-event supported by UNEP which will be held on 18th May. This event will focus on Nomadic Herders' Adaptation to Globalization: the case of Indigenous Reindeer Husbandry and will discuss impacts of land use changes on Indigenous reindeer herders. Pastoral livelihoods are increasingly stressed by land use change and loss of biodiversity due to increased infrastructure development, resource exploitation and other forms of human activities that create barriers to livestock mobility. Cases from reindeer husbandry in Russia, Mongolia, Sweden and Norway will be presented.

Thank you, Madame Chair for this opportunity. UNEP wishes you a successful continuation of the Forum and we look forward to our discussions.