

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

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On behalf of Asia Indigenous Peoples' Caucus

Mr. Chairperson,

We wish to express our deep frustration and serious concern that indigenous peoples remain almost invisible in the final draft of the outcome document for the UN summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda containing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets for the post- 2015 Development Agenda. Thus, despite the sustained and active engagement of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG) in the Post- 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda process. This is contrary to the aim of this development process to "LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND". Twenty –five years after world leaders committed to improve the well-being of the world's poorest, most deprived, oppressed and exploited, indigenous peoples still remain as one of the worlds poorest, and at the lowest rank in almost all of the development indicators. Indigenous peoples comprise 5 % of the global population but 15% of the poorest. 2/3 of this, which is more than 250 million is in the Asia- Pacific region. WE HAVE BEEN LEFT BEHIND.

It is with bigger disappointment that our contributions to and roles in achieving sustainable development which were recognized in the 1992 World Conference on Environment and Development has been completely ignored, and that we are only mentioned in **The new Agenda** as part of vulnerable groups that need empowerment [para 22] that are also entitled to quality education at all levels [para 23]. Corollary to these, we are included only under two goals as part of small food-producers whose agricultural productivity and incomes are aimed to be doubled by 2030, and targeted for the elimination of gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training by 2030.

In the Rio+20, the outcome document "**The Future We Want**," paragraph 49, recognizes: "*the importance of the participation of indigenous peoples in the achievement of sustainable development*" and "*the importance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the context of global, regional, national and sub-national implementation of sustainable development strategies.*" In the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP), an action oriented outcome document aimed at implementing the principles set forth in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, affirmed that: "*indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development.*" (Para. 33) The WCIP also committed to "*giving due consideration to all the rights of indigenous peoples in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.*" (Para.37)

We are not inherently vulnerable as we have nurtured harsh environments as our homelands. We have governed and developed our territories by ourselves for centuries by

using our resources prudently and not taking more than what is necessary to be able to survive. The non-recognition of our existence, our identity and our rights by nation-States is what is making us vulnerable, poor, and at the bottom of the development ladder. Under many national laws, our territories are controlled by the State without recognition of our prior rights, denial our right to full and effective participation in decision-making in all matters that affect us, including our right to free, prior and informed consent. The denial of our existence by governments and their failure to provide ethnically disaggregated data which should make our existence visible provides no basis for programs and measures for the fulfilment of our individual and collective rights as distinct peoples.

The 17 Goals and targets are now formulated and the final Declaration will be adopted by the UN General Assembly in September this year. We wish to convey our views, concerns and to ensure that **WE ARE NOT LEFT BEHIND**.

Recommendations

1. While the draft Declaration includes reference to full respect for international human rights treaties and other instruments, there is no particular reference or any of the collective rights of indigenous peoples as enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In particular, the key recommendation of indigenous peoples in line with the UNDRIP and the WCIP outcome document for the respect and protection of our right to land, territories and resources including to free prior and informed consent (FPIC) as critical for indigenous peoples' collective survival and development is must be included in the Declaration and targets. This can be enhanced further with the mention of the UNDRIP as part of the international instruments on which the **new Agenda** is grounded.

2. Disaggregation of data based on ethnicity/indigenous status needs to be included in relevant indicators across the targets of the 17 Goals of the SDG in the Sustainable **Development Goals and targets**.

3. For States to fulfill their commitment made in the Outcome Document of the WCIP to work with indigenous peoples to come up with their national action plans for the implementation of the UNDRIP and "to disaggregate data, as appropriate, or conduct surveys and to utilizing holistic indicators of indigenous peoples' well-being to address the situation and needs of indigenous peoples and individuals" [Para 10].

4. For UN agencies, to develop their System-wide Action Plan with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples by instituting mechanisms for regular consultation at all levels including designating a focal person on indigenous peoples among country teams, adopting policies in line with the UNDRIP and develop targeted programmes in line with the Outcome Document of the WCIP.

Thank you Mr. Chair!