

**May 29, 2013
Grand Chief Edward John
UNPFII member
Agenda Item 8: "post 2015 development agenda"
Re: Reports and Studies on extractive industries**

I want to underscore the issues raised in the reports and studies on extractive industries presented today in the studies by PFII, EMRIP and SRRIP and to agree with expert member from the Arctic about impacts of development on Indigenous peoples.

Indigenous peoples in developed countries face the same discrimination, inequalities and marginalization and, similar development agenda impacts, such those from extractive industries, as Indigenous peoples in developing countries and as such, the processes now considering the new post 2105 development agenda must ensure that Indigenous peoples in developed countries are fully and effectively included and supported through State participation and through UN agencies and funds including UNDP.

The reports by the PF members on extractive industries provide important analyses and recommendations of extractive industry impacts, much of it negative, on Indigenous peoples within their respective lands and territories. In the North America region Indigenous peoples protest these impacts calling on State governments and the corporate/business sector to respect and implement the articles of the UNDRIP, including FPIC, to ensure appropriate safeguards for the health and well being of their peoples, communities, land, water and environment.

Some of these extractive industry developments include mining, the tar sands, oil and gas, water and associated infrastructure including pipelines and offshore tanker traffic near Indigenous communities who depend on the the land and resources to support their sustenance and livelihood needs. The health and well being of individuals and communities are being directly impacted by chemicals used to extract and process minerals, oil and gas. These impacts, for example, include the expanding forms of cancers directly attributable to toxic chemicals distributed through air sheds and into waterways.

In Canada procedural safeguards contained in federal legislation have been eliminated or their application minimized giving rise to growing concerns about food, water and environment security including. As we have heard in this session of the PF the removal of these safeguards have forced Indigenous peoples to protest widely including the movement called IdleNoMore as well as legal actions in the courts.

We have heard these same concerns in other regions including Asia, Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Russian Federation, the Arctic and Pacific.

The studies and reports by PFII, EMRIP and SRRIP call for the respect by States for the recognition of rights to land and resources in traditional Indigenous territories. In particular in both the US and Canada constitutional based treaty and aboriginal rights provide critical safeguards for Indigenous peoples. As well the procedural and substantive rights confirmed in UNDRIP and other international instruments and mechanisms provide a solid foundation for Indigenous peoples dignity and well being.

Throughout this session we have repeatedly heard that IP are among the poorest of the poor and we need to ensure support for measures which would deal with this deplorable situation in the quality of life. In the session on the post 2015 sustainable development process, the Indigenous representative from Asia suggested important measures for ensuring the post 2015 development outcome document has relevance for IP and ensures that IP perspectives on sustainable development are included ...by considering a culturally appropriate definition of "poverty" and by adding "culture" as a fourth pillar to realize a true sustainable future.

The respect, recognition and application of the human rights of IP, with their full and effective participation, will provide structural and legal assurances for the survival, dignity and well being as articulated in A43 of the Declaration.