

United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 7th session
Panel on the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda Item 2
Response by the International Indian Treaty Council, July 7, 2014

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I begin by congratulating you on your appointment as Chair of this session.

We appreciate this opportunity to join in the serious concerns just expressed by Special Rapporteur Victoria Tauli Corpuz in her presentation regarding the current Zero draft. As she mentioned, the International Indian Treaty Council is one of three Organizing Partners for the Indigenous Peoples Major Group, along with Tebtebba Foundation and the Indigenous Information Network. We actively participate in the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development in relation to the post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDG's.

The IITC underscores our urgent concerns regarding recent developments in this process. We regret to report to this session of the EMRIP that the current Zero Draft released by the OWG co-chairs on June 30th, 2014 makes only one direct reference to "Indigenous", down from 4 specific mentions in the previous draft version.

As was just noted by the Special Rapporteur, the only use of the word "Indigenous" is in Proposed Goal # 16 on access to justice, target 16.4. regarding consent and participation in decision-making. We are deeply concerned that the word "peoples" after the word "indigenous" and "free" before "prior and informed consent" have been omitted completely in this draft. The current language references only "prior and informed consent" and "Indigenous and local communities". It should be of great concern to the EMRIP members and all delegations at this session that the word "Peoples" is now omitted completely, representing a major and significant step backwards from internationally-accepted minimum standards.

We call upon the EMRIP members to urge the OWG co-chairs to reinsert the word "Peoples" after "Indigenous" and the word "free" before "prior" in proposed Goal # 16. We also call on the EMRIP to recommend that the term "Indigenous Peoples" be used in the paragraphs addressing inequality, sustainable livelihoods and traditional knowledge. This is the last opportunity for input on the OWG co-chairs document. The zero draft will be presented to States as the basis for future work and negotiations relating to the post-2015 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The IITC considers this to be an urgent issue that will have long term impacts for Indigenous Peoples both internationally and in our homelands. We encourage the EMRIP to include these concerns in its recommendations from this session regarding access to justice. Thank you.

16.4 by 2030 increase inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels and ensure **(reinsert free)** prior informed consent of indigenous **(reinsert: peoples)** and local

communities in decision-making and natural resources management, and promote the use of their traditional knowledge and culture