



GROUP OF FRIENDS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES STATEMENT

Delivered by Ambassador Juan Sandoval,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of Mexico

ITEM 6 Follow up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

(note: this item has two speakers' list. This statement will be delivered under
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development speakers' list)

New York, 23 April 2021

Words: 266 – 2 minutes

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Madam Chair,

I make this statement on behalf of the Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples. We are 20 States* from different regions of the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the existing challenges faced by the majority of the world's indigenous peoples, such as, poverty; access to health, water and sanitation, and social services; access to remote learning opportunities and digital connectivity; food insecurity; discrimination; and the legal security of indigenous peoples' traditional lands and territories, to name a few.

What began as a health crisis, has quickly become a human rights and socio-economic crisis. Its multidimensional effects continue to unfold and disproportionately affect Indigenous Peoples, including women and girls.

Madam Chair

We acknowledge the 2030 Agenda and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as key instruments for *building back better*. Implementation must be based on respect for human rights and gender equality.

However, we can only *build back better*, if we *build back together*, in partnership with indigenous peoples, and thus ensure an inclusive recovery from the pandemic and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

In that respect, the Voluntary National Review process is an opportunity to take stock of the progress and the challenges to achieve the SDGs, as they pertain to indigenous peoples, among other stakeholders.

We call on all countries to consider indigenous peoples in their sustainable development review processes, and stress the need for indigenous peoples to participate in such review efforts.

Indigenous Peoples' meaningful participation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is crucial for the achievement of the SDGs, and to ensure that no one is left behind.

Thank you.

*The Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples is a multi-regional group of 20 States, which include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, the Kingdom of Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, New Zealand, Spain, Paraguay, and Peru.