

Item 7 of the Agenda: Post 2015 development Agenda

M. Hassani Nejad, Member of UNPFII- 21 May 2014

Recall the remarks of John Ashe the PGA during opening session of this Forum meeting where he mentioned that recent discussions on the post-2015 agenda had also brought to light the universal relevance of values which are particularly dear to the indigenous peoples, such as the freedom from discrimination, the right to live in freedom, peace and security, the protection of biodiversity, good governance, the sustainable management of natural resources, cultural diversity, to cite only a few. Their role on climate change negotiations was also recognized by Mr. Ban ki Moon the SG in the same occasion.

I would also like to quote from the latest report of the State of the World's Indigenous Peoples. It notes that, "Indigenous peoples face systemic discrimination and exclusion from political and economic power; they continue to be over-represented among the poorest, the illiterate, the destitute; they are displaced by wars and environmental disasters; indigenous peoples are dispossessed of their ancestral lands and deprived of their resources for survival, both physical and cultural; they are even robbed of their very right to life."

It is, therefore essential that indigenous peoples be recognized and supported as a distinct stakeholder in the emerging development agenda both because of the unique opportunities they offer and special challenges they are confronting.

Among priority areas that can be recognized in the context of the ongoing discussion on post 2015 development agenda I can mention recognition of cultural-sensitive policies, especially in the areas of education and health and in a larger context Recognition of culture as the 4th pillar of sustainable development; and Prioritization of the special needs of indigenous women, children, youth and indigenous persons with disabilities;

However, it is a matter of concern that UN recent outcome documents have not given the required attention to the indigenous people as a main stakeholder in the development discourse. The case of the SIDS was already mentioned.

OWG- SDGs

Focus area 2

e) by 2030 achieve access to adequate inputs, knowledge, productive resources, financial services and markets for **developing countries, especially** small farmers and fishers, with a particular focus on women and indigenous peoples

Focus Area 14

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In Rio+ 20 Document (the future we want) there are several references to indigenous people but as part of other groups. Only one paragraph and one subparagraph are devoted independently to indigenous people. (49 and 58j).

49. We stress the importance of the participation of indigenous peoples in the achievement of sustainable development. We also recognize the importance of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the context of global, regional, national, and sub-national implementation of sustainable development strategies.

58.

(j) enhance the welfare of indigenous peoples and their communities, other local and traditional communities, and ethnic minorities, recognizing and supporting their identity, culture and interests and avoid endangering their cultural heritage, practices and traditional knowledge, preserving and respecting non-market approaches that contribute to the eradication of poverty;

it is necessary to recognize and distinguish distinctive role and contribution of indigenous people in the post 2015 development process. Their values, convictions and practices are empowering elements when being properly recognized and adequately utilized. so it seems unfair in many cases to categorize them as people in vulnerable situations or vulnerable groups in the receiving end. They are inspiring and enabling agents of development too.

Another important feature in this context is the fact that post2015 development agenda is expected to have a global coverage and not circumscribed to the developing countries. This provides an opportunity for the situation of indigenous people be addressed in the emerging agenda regardless of the countries they are living in, developing or developed, North or South.

Member states are encouraged to be more open to the causes of Indigenous people and the values that they can bring to the table in the process of post 2015 development agenda. They deserve to have a fair and proper share in the new Agenda.