

POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2012, the Rio +20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development decided to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process that would be open to all stakeholders with a view to developing global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that address the challenges and shortcomings of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).¹ It is widely agreed that indigenous peoples were not granted enough attention in the MDGs. They were excluded from the process and are mentioned in neither the goals nor their indicators. Dealing with issues directly related to indigenous peoples, such as ending poverty, ensuring human rights and inclusion for all, ensuring good governance, preventing conflict, ensuring environmental sustainability and protection of biodiversity and climate change, the Post-2015 development framework and the SDGs will, for the next decade, set the standards for global sustainable development and will directly influence the lives of millions of indigenous peoples. The SDGs present a unique opportunity to remedy the historical injustices resulting from racism, discrimination and inequalities long suffered by indigenous peoples across the world. In the post-2015 development process, indigenous peoples are striving to ensure that the SDG targets and indicators reflect indigenous peoples' rights and their relationship to their lands, territories and natural resources and take their special vulnerabilities and strengths into consideration.

The Rio+ 20 Outcome Document mandated the creation of an intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG)² to discuss and propose goals, targets and indicators for the SDGs. The OWG's working methods include the full involvement of relevant stakeholders and expertise from civil society, the scientific community and the UN system, in order to provide a diversity of perspectives and experience. All nine UN Major Groups, among them the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group and other stakeholders, were thus engaged in the OWG sessions in 2013 and 2014, and will be expected to continue their participation, interventions and lobbying in 2015.

In January 2014, together with the International Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Policy Research and Education (Tebtebba) and the UN Secretariat Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues (UNSPFII), IWGIA facilitated a **Technical Workshop on indigenous peoples' priorities and targets for the SDGs**.

The outcome of the workshop was the development of an indigenous peoples' position paper and draft ideas for targets and indicators relevant to indigenous peoples in the SDGs. The position paper was endorsed by the international indigenous constituency and used by indigenous peoples, primarily the IP Major Group as guiding principles and was disseminated during the OWG meetings and used to lobby governments and other relevant stakeholders.

Report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

On 1 August, 2014, the OWG submitted a report to the 68th session of the UN General Assembly (GA) containing a proposal for SDGs for consideration and appropriate action.³ In December 2014, the GA adopted a draft resolution deciding that these proposals⁴ "shall be the basis for the integration of the SDGs into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing fully that other inputs may also be considered in this intergovernmental negotiation process at the 69th session of the GA".⁵

Indigenous peoples noted with concern that many references to "indigenous peoples" were deleted from this final Outcome Document. Despite indigenous peoples' lobbying efforts, the OWG outcome document, in its current form, contains only two references to indigenous peoples among its proposed 17 goals and 169 targets. Under Goal 2 on "agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers", indigenous peoples are mentioned between commas along with women, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers; Goal 4 on education reads "ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations". The goals, on the other hand, do not reflect, for example, land rights or culturally-sensitive education – both key priorities for indigenous peoples. The invisibility of indigenous peoples in this document raises a serious risk of repeating the mistakes from the Millennium Development Goals

(MDGs) and once again leaving behind 15% of the world's poorest in the global development agenda.

Interactive meeting with civil society on contributions to the synthesis report

On 10 September 2014, an interactive meeting took place with civil society in relation to the high-level stocktaking event on the post-2015 development agenda being arranged by the President of the 68th Session of the General Assembly, John Ashe. During the meeting, civil society representatives articulated their views on the post-2015 and sustainable development discussions to date. IWGIA funded an indigenous representative to attend the meeting in New York and supported her work, which served as an important contribution to the Secretary General's Synthesis Report.

The Secretary General's Synthesis Report

In December 2014, a Synthesis Report by United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon "The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet"⁶ was published affirming that the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015 development agenda should "leave no one behind" and recognizing that "people are at the center of sustainable development".

The Indigenous Peoples' Major Group commends the report's call for genuine commitment to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and thereby to benefit all, as well as its overall commitment towards using a human rights-based approach to development.

While the Secretary General's Synthesis Report makes no specific mention of Major Groups, the report affirms that the "meaningful participation" of essential actors, new partnerships and key constituencies are critical for a true, transformative agenda. A specific reference to Major Groups would have been desirable since the "Major Groups and other stakeholders" participatory framework has proved successful during the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and

the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, data disaggregation is one of the major issues for indigenous peoples. The synthesis report places special emphasis on the issue of data disaggregation as well as data gaps.

World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

In September 2014, the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) reaffirmed the UN General Assembly's commitments in support of indigenous peoples and sustainable development arising from the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development. The Rio+20 Outcome Document⁷ 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 subnational implementation of sustainable development strategies”. The WCIP adopted an action-oriented outcome document aimed at implementing the principles set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, affirming that “indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development” and committing to “giving due consideration to all the rights of indigenous peoples in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda”. These achievements must be reflected in the post-2015 development agenda, consistent with the rights of indigenous peoples and their valuable contributions to achieving sustainable development for all.

Indigenous peoples' Indicator meeting

In November 2014, a meeting took place in Baguio City entitled the “Global Workshop on Indigenous Peoples' Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda”.⁸ The meeting discussed and agreed on indicators relevant to indigenous peoples in the SDGs and built on the experiences of the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group in its earlier engagement and advocacy work in relation to the Open Working Group on the SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. A revised version of the indigenous peoples' position paper and the indi-

cators developed at this meeting will form the basis of an international lobbying tool during the course of 2015 focusing on the Post-2015 summit and beyond. Part of the meeting also therefore considered strategies and planned future entry points for lobbying.

Next steps towards post-2015

Looking beyond 2014, there is still much work for indigenous peoples to do if they are to ensure that their concerns and contributions are taken into consideration in the work streams ahead and in the post-2015 development framework and that their rights are reflected in the SDGs, both in their indicators and their implementation.

Finance for Development (FfD) is an important piece of a larger puzzle, and several pieces will need to dovetail carefully into other processes in 2015 and beyond, most notably the UN Summit on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in September 2015, and the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in December 2015. The relationship between the processes is still unclear and there is a need to find synergies rather than overlaps. As the Secretary General's Synthesis Report does not mention FfD, there is speculation that finance will most probably form a parallel negotiation alongside the post-2015 negotiations. The issue of Finance for Development is of prime importance to indigenous peoples in terms of eradicating poverty, accessing basic services and protecting their lands and territories and the world's biodiversity from aggressive industrial development, especially in light of the increased emphasis on private sector financing of development. There will be several FfD drafting sessions during 2015, culminating in the "**Third International Conference on Financing for Development**", which will be held in Addis Ababa in July 2015 at the highest possible political level, including Heads of State or Government, relevant ministers² ministers of finance, foreign affairs and development cooperation² and other special representatives.

Another process that is worth taking note of is a universal intergovernmental **High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)**. The HLPF is another critical outcome of Rio+20. The HLPF will be the main United Nations platform dealing with sustainable development from 2015 and beyond. It will provide political leadership and guidance; follow up and review progress in implementing sustainable development commitments and address new and emerging sustainable development

challenges. There are still many uncertainties regarding the HLPF; for example, how civil society will participate, how the HLPF will conduct reviews of the future work of sustainable development in all countries and at the UN, and how the review sessions will be carried out, to name but a few of the questions that remain to be answered. ○

Notes and references

- 1 <http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/727The%20Future%20We%20Want%2019%20June%201230pm.pdf>
- 2 <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/owg.html>
- 3 The reports and relevant documents resulting from the OWG session can be downloaded at: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1549>
- 4 http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/L.61&referer=/english/&Lang=E
- 5 UN Resolution A/68/L.61
- 6 http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/reports/SG_Synthesis_Report_Road_to_Dignity_by_2030.pdf
- 7 <http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/727The%20Future%20We%20Want%2019%20June%201230pm.pdf?ref=driverlayer.com>
The meeting was organized by Tebtebba, AIPP, Forest Peoples Programme, IWGIA and ILO with support from the European Commission and Brot Für die Welt.

Ida Peters Ginsborg is a Danish Sociologist working for IWGIA. As IWGIA's focal point for the post-2015 development process, Ida follows, supports and reports on indigenous peoples' full and effective participation.