



ON BEHALF OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MAJOR

Indigenous peoples in the post-2015 development framework

The universal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 development agenda are crucial for indigenous peoples as they will determine the direction of global sustainability and development efforts over the coming decade. Indigenous peoples make up more than 370 million people worldwide and 15% of the world's poorest individuals. They represent more than 5,000 distinct ethnic groups and are the guardians of most of the world's biological and cultural diversity. If the international community is truly committed to a more sustainable future for all then indigenous peoples must not be ignored as they were in the Millennium Development Goals.

The Rio+20 outcome document from 2012 set out more than 700 voluntary commitments on the part of states, UN organizations, inter-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society aimed at mobilizing all developed and developing countries around the new post-2015 development framework – leaving no-one behind. It is now more critical than ever that States and the UN System reiterate their commitment to recognizing and protecting indigenous peoples' rights by encouraging all Member States to develop concrete actions that will ensure the implementation of indigenous peoples' rights in the post-2015 development framework, including the SDGs.

No future development can be achieved without taking indigenous peoples into account. The Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG) is calling for a human rights-based approach to the post-2015 development agenda. The SDGs, in all their economic, social, cultural, environmental, political and institutional dimensions, must be imbued with the richness of diversity and a respect for human rights. This includes paying attention to the valuable contributions of indigenous peoples but also addressing the threats that mainstream development aggression pose to their lives and livelihoods.

The outcome document of the World Conference underscores the importance of including the rights of indigenous peoples in the SDGs. The outcome document of the World Conference underscores the importance of including the rights of indigenous peoples in the SDGs. It notes that indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. Further, it commits to give due consideration to all the rights of indigenous peoples in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. The SDGs must respect indigenous peoples' rights to lands, territories and resources and must affirm the central contribution of indigenous peoples to addressing problems such as social exclusion and poverty, loss of biological and cultural diversity, and climate change. For the SDGs to be truly universal, they must respect indigenous peoples' rights to lands, territories and resources and must affirm the central contribution of indigenous peoples to addressing problems such as social exclusion and poverty, loss of biological and cultural diversity, and climate change. On this basis, the IPMG recommends that the SDGs include:

Under a proposed goal on Inequality:

- Disaggregated data on ethnicity.

Under a proposed goal on Governance:

- Recognize indigenous peoples' right to self-determination and self-governance, including customary governance systems;



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- Ensure that Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, including women, youths, elders and people with disabilities, is implemented in all development-related decisions that affect them on all levels.

Under a proposed goal on Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere:

- Ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services including microfinance.
- Measure poverty not on income alone (and not absolutely, against the USD 1.25 threshold for defining poverty) but on well-being. Most indigenous peoples rely on non-monetary forms of income such as subsistence resources from hunting, gathering, pastoralism, small-scale agriculture and farming, all of which account for up to 90% of their livelihoods.

Under a proposed goal on Food Security:

- Increase the number of men and women, including indigenous peoples and local communities, who have secure tenure of land, property and natural resources to support their well-being and livelihoods;
- Secure indigenous peoples' collective rights to land, territories and resources;
- Include the use of traditional knowledge in agriculture.

Under a proposed goal on Biodiversity:

- Ensure the full and effective participation of IPs and recognize the role of IPs' traditional knowledge and strategies for resilience when developing all national and international policies, standards and measures pertaining to climate change prevention, adaptation and mitigation;
- Ensure the full and effective participation of IPs in the management of national and local risk and disaster plans.

Under a proposed goal on Climate Change:

- Ensure that the traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples with regard to environmental and biodiversity protection are recognized, respected and duly incorporated into sustainable development plans at international, national and local level;
- End and prevent uncontrolled, unmanaged and unsustainable industrial practices, including on the part of extractive industries and agribusiness on indigenous peoples' territories.

Under a proposed goal on Gender:

- Ensure gender equality for, and empowerment of, indigenous women and girls and intergenerational equity.

Under a proposed goal on Peaceful and inclusive societies:



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- Guarantee indigenous peoples' full and effective participation in decision-making processes related to peace-building;
- Halt the militarization of indigenous peoples' territories and the criminalization of indigenous peoples' movements and activists.

Under a proposed goal on Health:

- Reiterate the importance of our traditional health practices and reinstate the target on "dissemination of medical and public health knowledge, including traditional knowledge".

Under a proposed goal on Employment:

- Recognize traditional occupations as forms of employment that are essential to achieving and sustaining indigenous peoples' and other communities' well-being and livelihoods.

Under a proposed goal on Education:

- Ensure the protection of cultural legacies and practices without which indigenous peoples cannot be identified as distinct. Include targets that respect and protect cultural diversity, the right and access to culturally-appropriate education based on interculturalism and bilingualism, and promote intergenerational transfer of indigenous peoples' cultural heritage, traditional knowledge systems and practices.