

**Indigenous Peoples Intervention on Sustainable Development Goals**  
**Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP**  
**March 24-28, 2014**

Thank you, Chair, for the opportunity to contribute to the discussion on this important topic.

As stewards of nature for generations, we, the indigenous peoples, commit ourselves to continued self-determined and sustainable development.

Most of the remaining forest in the world is found in indigenous lands and territories ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous\\_and\\_community\\_conserved\\_area](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_and_community_conserved_area)), where we contribute with sustainable resource management and sustainable development. We are recognized as rights holders, rather than stakeholders; our collective rights to lands, territories and resources are an integral part of our well-being and our symbiotic relationship with nature.

Indigenous knowledge and customary laws, however, along with indigenous practices and sustainable management systems, are too rarely recognized by states and other agencies. On the contrary, the sustainable and traditional livelihood practices of indigenous peoples are considered a driver of deforestation in many countries that needs to be corrected by the states. Today we continue to struggle against plunder, development aggression and lands grabs in our lands and territories. We, and especially our women and children, are the first victims of climate change and other environmental crises. Still, however, we offer to the world our knowledge, skill, customary laws, traditional governance system and sustainable resources management systems, along with our culture of “no waste” and of treating all life forms and nature with respect.

We welcome UNEP Live and are eager to have collaboration with UNEP offering our help to link many already available community platforms such as the Community Monitoring and Information Systems, Community Mapping and Spatial Planning. Through different practices and contributions, such as the legal recognition of Community protocols for Environmental Sustainability, Participatory GIS (P-GIS), among others, etc. We believe we are able to provide valuable additions to the spatial data collection in order to demarcate traditional boundaries, forest cover, encroachment, lands grabbing and spatial environmental planning resulting helpful also for governments.

We therefore refer you to the Alta Outcome Document of the Global Indigenous Peoples Preparatory Conference held in Norway in June 2013 towards the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples to be held as high-level Forum at the GA in September 2014, and request that UNEP support the human rights-based, ecosystem-based and knowledge-based approach to formulating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) rather than focusing only on the economic aspects of sustainability.

We welcome and appreciate the review of the framework, paradigm and indicators of SDGs and UNEP's re-affirmation of its commitment to the universal basic human rights of "*dignity for all*."

We urge governments and UNEP to implement the rights of Indigenous Peoples to lands, territories and resources, and to promote full and effective participation and provide the necessary resources, policies and services in line with other international human rights instruments particularly the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), ILO Convention 169, CBD article 8 (j) and 10 (c) and the UNFCCC-Cancun Agreement on safeguards.

We strongly recommend the recognition of indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources and urge governments to require Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as a precondition for any future development.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Indigenous Peoples Major Group

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