

Indigenous Peoples' Major Group vision & priorities for the Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda

By
Sui Khar

Mr. Chairperson,

My name is Sui Khar and representing Indigenous Peoples major group in this meeting. I like to take this opportunity to call for full and effective participation in the design, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. We are also calling for a human rights-based and culturally-sensitive approach that emphasizes universality, participation and accountability and which is based on respect for and inclusion of indigenous peoples' views, perspectives and experiences in the SDGs. From our perspective, the SDGs should not only focus on desirable outcomes but also on the drivers of sustainable development, such as human rights, rights-based approaches, governance, the rule of law, and full and effective participation in decision-making.

Poverty should be viewed from a multi-dimensional perspective that encompasses a shortage of capabilities, choices, security and power, as well as of resources such as income. The \$2 USD per day measure of poverty, however, is inadequate. For this reason, we focus on a well-being measure rather than a goal targeted on income alone.

The formulation and implementation of the SDGs should be based on the universally accepted *Human Rights-Based Approach* and its key principles including *non-discrimination, equality, participation, inclusion, accountability* and *the rule of law*. For Indigenous Peoples, the human rights-based approach reflects respect for and recognition, protection and enjoyment of their individual and collective rights consistent with enshrined in UNDRIP. Additionally, the SDGs have to recognize Indigenous Peoples' rights to their lands, territories and resources as well as the right to self-determination, which are fundamental to their collective survival and development based on their distinct identities, cultures, spirituality and socio-political institutions.

For Indigenous Peoples, governance is grounded in the right to self-determination, as reaffirmed by Article 3 of the UNDRIP. Furthermore, it is crucial for Indigenous Peoples to participate in decision-making processes on policies and governance at all levels, in line with the standards and norms outlined in the UNDRIP and other legal frameworks. Good governance applies not only to governments but also to corporate and other institutions. In this respect, it is crucial for the UN system, Member States, corporations and other entities to recognize and adhere to principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

Indigenous territories and lands are increasingly becoming the targets of invasion for the purposes of resource extraction and militarization, leading to violence and armed conflicts, displacement, human rights violations and, in some cases, genocide. Discrimination and violence against Indigenous women and girls, in particular, are among the worst and most pervasive forms of human rights violations. Ending militarization and initiating processes to demilitarize the lands, territories, waters and

oceans of Indigenous Peoples and to end, not least, the violence against Indigenous women and girls, must form part of the SDG framework.

Indigenous Peoples often find themselves at the forefront of climate change and act as first responders to natural disasters. Indigenous Peoples' contributions to climate change solutions and disaster risk reduction and management have been acknowledged and recognized by the international community. This should not be underestimated in the SDGs, considering that Indigenous Peoples have survived centuries relying on our resilience and traditional knowledge. With support in the form of policies, integrated approaches and programs, finance and technology, Indigenous Peoples can enhance this resilience and contribute yet more to achieving sustainable development.

We also call for to develop accountability and reporting mechanisms for *all* stakeholders involved in financing sustainable development, including UN Agencies, international financial and trade institutions, transnational corporations and the private sector. The IPs emphasizes the need for qualified targets and to ensure that all relevant actors have the necessary data collection and statistical capacities to support robust indicators of success. Monitoring the situation of Indigenous Peoples through the use of relevant indicators and disaggregated data is essential if we are to make progress in addressing the human rights and well-being of Indigenous Peoples in the post-2015 development framework. It is important to note that Indigenous Peoples have developed their own forms of monitoring and evaluation based on their traditional knowledge, with a holistic view of their sustainable self-determined development. Indigenous communities should be empowered to act on the basis of the information they have gathered, monitored and analysed. This data can significantly contribute to action plans, strategies, monitoring and evaluation processes at local, sub-national, national and global levels.

Mr. Chair, thank you for your kind attention.