

**United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
18th session
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United Nations Headquarters, New York
Thematic Cluster on Waste Management**

Indigenous Peoples Comments -6/5/2010

Mr. Chairman,

Waste management is one of the key concern for indigenous Peoples and their local communities. It is a concern because, despite the fact that they do not play a key role in the generation of the dangerous waste, they feel the impact that affects both their health, lands, water and biodiversity they so dearly depend on for their survival.

Dumping of both liquid, solid and hazard waste and substances in to the waters and lands, enter the live cycle of the different communities unnoticed and slowly causes short and long term health impacts of chronic cancer, luck and other water born diseases affecting women, children, the youth and the productive members of the communities. Mercury, uranium, Asbestos, e- waste and other liquid and solid wastes from different industries are just but a few we can mention. Most hospitals in developing countries especially those of Africa have not put in place measure in dumping hospital waste. The lands are not productive anymore because of the contamination of the soils caused by the dumping of the waste. In sub-Saharan Africa and other nomadic pastoralists areas in the world, livestock herders have lost their livestock due to the poisoning from the waters. This again goes unnoticed and undocumented data is a challenge in most of these remote areas. Communities have seen the impact loose of the biodiversity they depend on for their medicine, wild fruits and foods that they depend on, for their good health.

Mr Chairman We have listened carefully to all the interventions and presentations by panelists and do agree with the recommendations and contributions especially made by the G77 and china, EU and Africa.

- 1. However we remind you all, that Good governance is key to all the issues we are discussing here. Indigenous and local communities globally feel that a lot has yet to be done for the recognition of the role communities can play in contributing to the success and outcome on the formulation and implementation of policies on sound waste management.**
- 2. Capacity building and awareness is important to ensure communities can handle and recycle safely the wastes dumped in their lands and waters and can have capacity to basically taste their waters and ensure safety from contamination by both human and animals.**
- 3. Training on technology and management of sound waste management should be inclusive for all. The Governments should ensure that recycling techniques are domesticated and disseminated to all to ensure a sustainable management of all waste including liquid, solid, heavy metals and e –waste, and plastics.**
- 4. Government should ensure that Environmental impact assessment is done in a participatory way to allow communities to have a right to contribute and give guidance in dumping sites and that their prior informed consent on the use of their lands can be respected.**