

**Closing Statement and Comments to Chair's Report from
Indigenous Peoples Major Group
CSD 18, UN-Headquarters, New York
14th May 2010**

This cycle of CSD is important to us. One of our key agenda was to inform you with a hope to stop the grave and continuing violations on our rights, as well as the rights of Mother Earth by mining and other extractive industries.

We are grateful with the Chair's summary report; and we hope this will further guide us in the preparation for CSD 19 and the upcoming IPM. However, we have some factual comments to make under "Managing Mining... particularly on the Ways Forward" (which we will also submit to you):

On Para 74 please add, **social** and environmental protection; (because *various delegates including ourselves did not confine such concerns to environmental issues only*

Under para 75 *delegates also made specific reference to the need for adequate financial bonds to be laid down during closure and accidents*

Para 77- should include adverse economic, **social and environmental** impacts

Para 78 - the artisanal and small scale mining sector needs **legal recognition**, not only technical and financial assistance

Para 82 - we said this along with other delegates that there is a need for an independent monitoring body should include **uranium and other mining activities**.

Para 83 - add: **the need for better information as a prerequisite for policy formulation and local decision making** was also emphasized by delegates.

Mr. Chair, let me also say that we hold respect and appreciation for your support in this process and this should be replicated by others in allowing major groups to present their views.

Now we reiterate that the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and all human rights instruments be applied within the policies and planning of the CSD, as minimum standards adopted by the UN General Assembly.

Finally, Mr Chairman, Indigenous Peoples are the majority in the world's distinct cultures and traditions; and it is through these that we adapt to our environment. In looking for models of walking gently upon the earth, developing partnerships and learning lessons from indigenous cultures is a vital strategy.

Mr Chair, I would like to end with the words of Robert Alan and I quote **“Many people are helping to make the world a better place, but humanity as a whole is making it difficult for other living creatures that share our planet to survive.”**

Thank you Mr Chairman.