

UN General Assembly Informal interactive hearings on the post-2015 development agenda, 3pm, UNHQ, 26-27 May 2015; Presented by Agnes Leina, Illaramatak Community Concerns

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Your excellency, Mr. President, thank you for this opportunity. Respectful Greetings to all. My name is Agnes Leina and I am here from Kenya representing the *Illaramatak Community Concerns* on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG).

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and post-2015 development agenda aspire to “leave no one behind.” This is admirable and attainable goal if there is indeed political will to implement commitments made. I can tell you that implementation would make a difference for indigenous peoples who are 15% of the world’s poorest and who face multiple discrimination, especially indigenous women and girls (who I represent here) who are the most disadvantaged and discriminated against. This statistic should be juxtaposed with the reality that the traditional territories of indigenous peoples “encompass up to 22 percent of the world’s land surface” and “coincide with areas that hold 80 percent of the planet’s biodiversity.”

Rio + 20 and the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples both call for the participation of indigenous peoples in the post-2015 Development Agenda, however, at this critical juncture the process is in jeopardy of marginalizing Indigenous Peoples within this agenda.

The Indigenous Peoples Major (IPMG) group takes note that of the 169 targets currently under discussion, only two specifically reference Indigenous Peoples. While we are appreciative of the work of the Open Working Group co-chairs, the post-2015 development agenda currently seems well positioned to repeat the broken promises of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the world’s Indigenous Peoples by promoting universality at the expense of our visibility, diversity and our rights. The process more generally mentions vulnerable groups, which are theoretically supposed to encompass our special situations.

Our concern is manifested in the recent Bureau of UN Statistical Commission’s technical report on an indicator framework for goals and targets of the SDGs. Despite two specific references in the SDG targets, the Statistical Commission’s report does not currently refer to Indigenous Peoples. The report embraces the use of the terms “vulnerable” and “marginalized groups,” without clearly identifying who these groups are or acknowledging that these terms fails to recognize the distinct cultural identities and political status of Indigenous Peoples who are rights-holders and agents of change.

Additionally, the IPMG remains concerned that on the national level, some states may not include targets and indicators relating to indigenous peoples, including the need for disaggregated data based on ethnicity and indigenous status, on the grounds that indigenous peoples are not legally recognized. **With this in mind, the IPMG recommends that monitoring frameworks emphasize the inclusion of**

targets and indicators on indigenous peoples regardless of their national legal status.

As the UN Statistical Commission seeks to take into account a range of conceptual indicator frameworks, IPMG acknowledges proposals calling for an Integrated Monitoring Framework with multi-level review processes and indicators. **However, the IPMG strongly recommends that any monitoring framework commit to the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in further developing the 2 targets and indicators to ensure inclusiveness and to address our specific circumstances and conditions.**

In addition, the IPMG recommends that UN Statistical Commission endorsed Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and the proposed HLG, include the participation of major groups and other stakeholders in an open and transparent manner.

In closing, the IPMG welcomes the inclusion of ethnicity and indigenous status in the data disaggregation as part of key principles for setting SDG indicators. **We strongly recommend the data-disaggregation on ethnicity and indigenous status to be included in all relevant indicators for indigenous peoples across the all the SDG Goals and targets with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in identifying such relevant indicators.**

To this end, the IPMG has prepared a policy brief containing our specific proposals for targets and indicators in line with the commitments of states in relation to Rio + 20, the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. A link to this policy brief will be included with this statement.

Finally, to truly “leave no one behind’ indigenous peoples need to be full partners and active participants in developing this new agenda. We verifiably hold a wealth of traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices on ecosystem management and technologies, traditional health systems and medicinal plants; agricultural production and food systems, local crops and seeds. While these realities are increasingly recognized among mainstream sectors, indigenous peoples seldom share the benefits of the commercialization of their knowledge. Indigenous Peoples, including indigenous women, have a proven track record of responsible management of natural resources in forest, deserts, tundra, and small islands. Our contributions to sustainable development should not only be recognized and respected, but whenever possible celebrated as models of good practices, which have the potential to benefit all mankind.

Thank you.

Indigenous Peoples Major Group Policy Brief on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

http://unngls.org/images/PDF/INDIGENOUS_PEOPLES_MAJOR_GROUP_Policy_Brief.pdf