10th Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, 31 March – 4 April 2014, UNHQ

IPMG response to Focus areas and clusters toward the elaboration of targets, presented by Roberto Borrero (Taino), International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group

*Check against delivery*

Mr. Chair we’ve taken note of several statements from the plenary calling for further integration of “culture” as a cross-cutting, fundamental dimension of sustainable development. The Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG) supports this call as the protection of and respect for cultural heritage, traditional knowledge systems and practices are priorities for Indigenous Peoples. The IPMG urges the integration of these priorities throughout the current clusters and possible stand-alone goals.

For a goal on Education (Focus area 4, Cluster 2), proposed targets, for instance, should include references to cultural rights including cultural heritage, traditional knowledge systems and practices, as well as intergenerational transfer. In addition, a target focusing on equitable access to education - at all levels - should include references to culturally-appropriate and inter-cultural education, as well as focus on the most marginalized, including Indigenous Peoples (IPs), ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, persons living in rural areas, and migrants.

Culture can also be integrated into targets related to Employment and decent work for all (Focus area 11, Cluster 2), such as a target that will:

1. Recognize and protect traditional occupations and livelihoods.  
   *This is essential to the well-being of IPs.*

On Energy (Focus area 7, Cluster 4), our targets include:

1. Invest and support community-based, small-scale, decentralized renewable energy systems.  
   *This would offer cost-and environment-friendly alternatives to fossil fuels, large hydro and bio fuels, which are of great concern to IPs.*
2. Target: Increase investments in the renewable energy sector and percentage of clean energy to 30% by 2020 in national portfolios and adopt stringent energy efficiency measures worldwide.

On Economic Growth (Focus area 8, Cluster 4), the IPMG supports moving beyond regressive language and toward “inclusive and sustainable economic growth.” A related target would:

1. Recognize and adhere to principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) prior to any national or corporate development projects worldwide.

On Climate (Focus area 15, Cluster 5), the IPMG supports a stand-alone goal with interlinkages across focus areas. Further, the IPMG supports a target that will:

1. Recognize traditional knowledge, strategies for resilience, and meaningful participation of impacted communities and peoples within the development of national and international policies, standards and measures pertaining to climate change prevention, adaptation and mitigation.


Thank you.