International Indian Treaty Council



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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 Indiaenous Peoples Major Group

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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.

In closing, the IPMG invites the co-Chairs and other stakeholders to review additional goals, targets, and indicators available in our IPMG position paper at http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3447SD2015%20Position%20Paper_Indigenous%20Peoples%20MG_v1_March%202014.pdf, as well as in our Analysis of the Co-Chairs Focus Area document at http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=165 (click on "Latest from Organizing partners).

Thank you.