

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Thirteenth Session
New York, May 12th to 23rd 2014
Agenda Item 7 D Post 2015 Development Agenda

Intervention on behalf of the participants of Project Access Global Capacity Training Program (representing Africa; Asia; Central and South America and the Caribbean; North America and the Pacific), including International Indian Treaty Council, Triballink, United Confederation of Taino People, Organization of Kalina and Lokono Indigenous Peoples in Marowajjne, Two Feathers International Consultation Aotearoa NZ, Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities, Kimberly Land Council and Cameroon Indigenous Women's Forum.

Presented by Lucia Owies

Thank you Madam Chair.

Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, the Pacific, Asia and Africa collectively discussed, among other issues, their concerns on Cultural Development, Sustainability and the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

We'll refer to two important outcome documents that recognized the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in the Sustainable Development Process. The Earth Summit's, outcome document **Agenda 21**, identified nine major groups with important contributions, one of them being Indigenous Peoples. The Rio +20 outcome document, **The Future We Want**, reaffirmed the participation of these groups.

One of the major criticisms of the UN's MDG's was that Indigenous Peoples' Rights, perspectives and concerns about development were not addressed. The Indigenous Peoples Major Group has identified a number of key priorities, targets and indicators and we, from Project Access, would like to expand on these two priorities.

Among those identified are:

- Ensuring recognition and respect for Indigenous People's Rights to land, water, seeds and other resources, self-determination, Treaty Rights and Free, Prior, Informed Consent.
- Respect and protection for traditional and local livelihoods, food sovereignty and subsistence practices

The following examples are not exhaustive, but demonstrate the impacts of the lack of Free, Prior and Informed Consent to Indigenous Peoples throughout the world:

- In South Africa, the Khomani San Peoples, (hunters and gatherers), were displaced from their ancestral lands to make way for a National Park.* A small portion of this land was allocated to them, yet some were removed, representing the loss of their livelihood and cultural life. Presently, foreigners are obtaining their traditional plants and profiting from these.
- In Cameroon, the Mbororo Pastoralists and the Forest Peoples of Central Africa are being displaced without an option of relocation, nor compensation to accommodate extractive industries and other corporate interests.
- In Suriname the lack of Land Rights and implementation of the UNDRIP prevent its Indigenous Peoples from **exercising their customary practices and use of their ancestral lands. Logging and mining practices increase and** indigenous lands are allocated to non-indigenous peoples.
- In Tanzania the lands of the Maasai and Loliondo Peoples in Ngorongoro district continue to be taken away, resulting in forced relocation, starvation and enormous injustices.

All of these examples are covered under the UN Declaration articles 19, 20, 24, 26 and 28. It has been stated that “Culture is a Fundamental Dimension of Sustainable Development”; we as Indigenous Peoples see it as **being of the essence**. Presently Indigenous Peoples are enduring, the effects of extractive industries, environmental violence, land displacement, cultural impacts, amongst others.

As identified by the Indigenous Peoples Major Group and our assessment, we make the following recommendations:

1. A Right's based approach, incorporating International Human Rights Standards, including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
2. The full participation and inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in decision-making in sustainable development programs and policies at all stages and on all levels.
3. That states be encouraged to take proactive measures towards the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Madam Chair, we are confident that the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in all scopes of the Post 2015 Development Agenda will make a substantial contribution to the true spirit of the **Future We ALL Want!**

We Thank you.

*“The ILO and the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights on the constitutional and legislative protection of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: South Africa”,