

**Interactive Hearing for organization of the United Nations General Assembly High Level Plenary Meeting to be called the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (HLPM-WCIP)
Intervention by the International Indian Treaty Council
Topic 3: Indigenous Peoples Priorities in the Post2015 Development Agenda**

Presented by Roberto Borrero (Taino), IITC, June 18th, 2014

Thank you Madame Moderator. The International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) is one of the organizing partners - along with Tebtebba Foundation and the Indigenous Information Network (IIN) - for the Indigenous Peoples Major Group contributing to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and other processes related to the post2015 Development Agenda.¹

Madame Moderator, it is important to note that while a majority of Indigenous Peoples engaging the UN system are focused on the HLPM/WCIP, the SDG process is moving forward comparatively unnoticed, although elaboration of this Agenda will set the thematic operative framework of the United Nations for at least the next 15 years.

In a related SDG process, for example, the upcoming Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Indigenous Peoples are not included in the current zero draft poised to set SIDS priorities. With this in mind, the Rio + 20 Indigenous Peoples International Declaration on Sustainable Development and Self-Determination identifies three core elements and priorities for Sustainable Development including:

- 1) Culture as a fundamental dimension of Sustainable Development;
- 2) Full exercise of the human and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples including the right to free, prior, and informed consent regarding develop strategies that affect their lands, territories, and waters;
- 3) Strengthening and protecting diverse traditional and local Indigenous economies, territorial management, and food sovereignty.

These priorities speak to directly to equality, recognition, inclusiveness, consent and participation - central themes permeating generations of Indigenous Peoples' human rights advocacy at the local, national, regional, and international levels.

While States continue to debate the inclusion of a stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal on Equality, the IITC supports such a goal and in relation to the SDG, recommends that the HLPM/WCIP Outcome Document:

¹ The Indigenous Peoples Major Group has developed a position paper highlighting Indigenous Peoples priorities for the post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. It is available at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues website under documents as Conference Room Paper 3.

1) Recognize the link between the implementation and monitoring of the UNDRIP with the implementation and monitoring of the SDG at the local, regional, sub-regional, and international level.

2) Call for a UN system wide focus on closing the inequality gap for Indigenous Peoples, beginning with an honest assessment of the root causes and impacts of historic injustices, including colonization, dispossession of lands, territories and resources, as well as oppression and discrimination perpetrated against indigenous Peoples.

3) Urge States to implement a human rights-based approach to development taking into account issues of equality and sustainability, and endorse the fundamental concept of development with culture and identity.

4) Urge States and the UN system to engage in meaningful partnerships with Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous women, youth, children, the aging, and persons with disabilities, to ensure their effective participation in the post-2015 development agenda and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Guided by the principles of equality and non-discrimination, and in accordance with Articles 18, 42 and other provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, our engagement in the SDG process should be adequately financed and technical and institutional support, as well as training should also be provided.

5) Recognize need to strengthen the institutionalized mechanisms for consultation and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples, building on the fundamental principles of free, prior and informed consent and full participation in the development process.²

6) Recognize the critical importance of and call upon States and the UN system, in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, to prioritize the collection of disaggregated data by gender, age, ethnic identity and other factors, e.g. disability, which is vital to gaining an accurate understanding of indigenous Peoples' poverty, to qualify policies, and to develop appropriate programmes and monitor impacts on all members of indigenous Peoples communities.

In closing Madame Moderator, we remain available to further discuss these issues with the PGA and Advisors, as well as with other delegations of Indigenous Peoples.

Hahom (Thank you).

² The role of the United Nations Country Teams in this respect is crucial. Especially in cities and countries where indigenous peoples have weak institutional capacity, the Country Teams should proactively engage in dialogue with indigenous representatives, both men and women.