



Session 2

ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PACT FOUNDATION

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STATEMENT BY THE ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PACT (AIPP)

Don't leave us behind!

In spite of the sustained and active engagement of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG) in the processes for Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda, we wish to express our deep frustration and serious concern that indigenous peoples remain almost invisible in the current SDG Working Document containing the 17 Goals and targets for the post-2015 Development Agenda. This is contrary to the aim of this development process to “leave no one behind”.

Indigenous peoples comprise 5 % of the global population but 15% of the poorest. 2/3 of this, which is more than 250 million is in the Asia-Pacific region. We remain as distinct groups from the majority of each country's population and are referred to in different names such as “ *ethnic minority, Ethnic nationality, Masyarakat Adat, Orang Asli/ Orang Asal, Adivasi, tribal peoples, hilltribes, janajati*, among others. We have persisted in asserting and defending our distinct identities that are deeply rooted in our natural environment--- our lands, territories and resources. We have common historical experience of marginalization, discrimination and forced assimilation among others. Based on the struggles of indigenous peoples, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was adopted by the UN General Assembly as an act of achieving social justice, equality and non-discrimination for all. This is now part of the international human rights obligation of states, which affirms our right to our identities, lands, territories and resources, to self-determination and to our cultural heritage. However, these rights continue to be violated by states including by denying our recognition as indigenous peoples, which are the key factors for our impoverished and marginalized condition.

We deplore the worsening “development aggression” being imposed on us based on a neo-liberal development model that is resulting to the massive exploitation and destruction of our lands, territories and resources and to environmental disasters. The ambitious Investment Plan of ASEAN for economic integration poses serious threats to our own survival, development and wellbeing as indigenous peoples. In particular, the more than 100 large dams, the expansion of palm oil plantations, mono-cropping, land conversion, economic land concessions, mining, infrastructures among others are being in outright violation of our land rights and undermining our dignity and wellbeing. It has also resulted to increasing violence against indigenous women and undermining their roles and contributions to sustainable resource management, as well as their skills and capacities. Indigenous peoples are often made as sacrificial lambs in the name of national development. However, this development model is inherently worsening inequality by increasing the gap between the rich and the poor, instead of national prosperity as claimed by states and their corporate partners.



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In spite of the implementation of the MDGs, this has failed to fully address poverty and marginalization of indigenous peoples. The Human Development Index (HDI) of many Asian countries have clearly demonstrated that indigenous peoples are disproportionately over represented amongst the poor, the lack of access to basic social services such as health and education. Likewise, the MDGs also did not account for the specific circumstances and conditions of indigenous peoples in relation to our collective development.

It is thereby critical to ensure that the post 2015 Development Agenda (SDGs) shall fully account for indigenous peoples as rights-holders and key actors and agents for sustainable development. As such, the SDGs shall ensure the respect and recognition of our collective rights, and address our needs, perspectives and aspirations. We thereby recommend the following to ensure that indigenous peoples will not be “left behind” in the achievement of the SDGs:

1. Include global indicators on:
 - a. The security of land rights of indigenous peoples;
 - b. Protection of indigenous peoples sustainable livelihoods and traditional knowledge
 - c. Respect for the free prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples
 - d. Special measures in addressing the particular needs and circumstances of Indigenous peoples such as on health, education, and poverty alleviation
2. Ensure data- disaggregation based on ethnicity/indigenous status in all indicators relevant to indigenous peoples across the SDG targets
3. Ensure the effective participation of indigenous peoples in the review and monitoring of the SDGs at all levels, including the collection and submission of data relating to relevant indicators to indigenous peoples
4. Develop and enforce strict regulatory policies and mechanisms for business and corporations to respect human rights, including the requirements for free prior and informed consent for indigenous peoples; uphold the integrity of the environment, ensure transparency and equitable tax obligations.
5. The principles of justice, equity, respect for human rights equality, non-discrimination, good governance, inclusiveness, transparency and democracy shall be imbedded in the post 2015 Development Agenda.

AIPP is a pan-Asia movement of indigenous peoples with 47 members in 14 countries in Asia. AIPP is accredited as an NGO in special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council