

8th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
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STATEMENT FROM THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSTITUENCY

Linking National, Regional, and Global Dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

I am Robie Halip from the Kalanguya and Kankanaey indigenous peoples in the Philippines and representing the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development (IPMG) and the Indigenous Peoples constituency of the APRCEM.

In this decade of action, political will “walking the talk” from states is needed.

The commitment by states of leaving no one behind should be put into action at the national and local levels to make meaningful change to the people especially for those left behind.

While progress is reported by some states, there is still a need to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, women, youth, and farmers among others in national VNR processes and in the overall implementation, monitoring, and reporting of the SDGs.

Multi-stakeholder platforms at the country level that ensures all voices are heard and taken into account need to be institutionalized or where present strengthened to ensure that no one is left behind. The support of UN country teams to this is essential.

Digital divide needs to be seriously addressed and should not hinder states from reaching out and involving the people in the overall SDG process.

Integration of inputs to the VNR report of states from CSOs and major groups should be ensured and that reports from the civil society be included as part of the official documents of the VNR.

It is important that the participation in decision making processes in relation to COVID19 recovery of indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, workers, farmers, women, and urban poor among others is in place to ensure that our particular needs and priorities are addressed.

Further to this, we reiterate our previous recommendation for APFSD to:

- ensure adequate actions on issues affecting the region that impact the achievement of the SDGs such as cross-border issues, shrinking civil society spaces, and rising authoritarianism in the region;
- facilitate more interactive and action-oriented discussions and exchanges in addressing systemic barriers including unfair trade and investment relations and mechanism, authoritarian political systems, neo-liberal policies that is widening inequality and destroying the environment among others; and
- ensure the implementation of a rights-based approach to sustainable development that takes into account development justice.

The full and effective participation and the critical voice, of the civil society and major groups in national, regional, and global SDG processes is important and must be strengthened. We are your partners in achieving the 2030 Agenda.