Agenda Item 4: Implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the Subregional Level

Statement to be delivered by Adrian Lasimbang, Right Energy Partnership with Indigenous Peoples (REP) on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples Constituency of the APRCEM:

Esteemed delegates, Kopivosian.

As we discuss the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the subregional level, the crucial role of Indigenous Peoples in conserving our planet's biodiversity and cultural heritage cannot be overstated. Our deep connection to our lands and territories stands in stark contrast to the systemic discrimination, land dispossession, and rights violations we endure.

Across Southeast and South Asia, in countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, India, and Nepal, Indigenous communities safeguard the remaining biodiverse areas. Yet, we are besieged by large-scale hydropower projects—projects often imposed upon us without our free, prior, and informed consent, leading to displacement and severe environmental harm.

Amid urgent climate action areas—namely, sustainable energy transition and water resource management—highlighted in this session, it's imperative to acknowledge and support the contributions of Indigenous Peoples. For instance, in Malaysia and Indonesia, Indigenous Peoples organizations have for years developed community-led micro-hydro systems for Indigenous communities not reached by their national grids. These not only supply energy and bolster livelihoods but also safeguard watershed areas within their territories. Such initiatives prove that when Indigenous rights and knowledge are recognized and respected, sustainable and inclusive energy solutions can flourish.

On another note, a gap exists in how outcomes from sub-regional processes are integrated into the global report during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). This disconnect prevents the unique insights from sub-regions from effectively informing and enhancing global strategies for SDG implementation.

We, therefore, advocate for the systematic inclusion of sub-regional process outcomes into the global report. By doing so, we can ensure that the valuable perspectives and contributions of each sub-region are recognized and utilized at the global level.

In closing, we urge a renewed commitment to partnership and collaboration among Indigenous Peoples, governments, and all stakeholders. By working together, we can
create a future where the rights, knowledge, and contributions of Indigenous Peoples are at the forefront of the sustainable development agenda, receiving the acknowledgment and appreciation they deserve.

Thank you.