



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MAJOR GROUP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Inputs by IPMG at Briefing with Co-Facilitators of Ministerial Declaration

Thank you for the opportunity to engage in this process.

The Zero Draft acknowledges global challenges and reaffirms commitments to the 2030 Agenda. Yet, from the standpoint of Indigenous Peoples, the text remains insufficiently transformative and risks reproducing patterns of exclusion.

While Indigenous Peoples are briefly mentioned in relation to water tenure and vulnerable populations (para. 23a), our rights, knowledge systems, and governance are otherwise absent. This marginal reference reduces Indigenous Peoples to beneficiaries rather than rights-holders and co-creators of sustainable futures. The Declaration fails to explicitly affirm the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as a guiding framework.

The draft emphasizes science, technology, and innovation (paras. 15-16, 23e, 27f), but does not recognize Indigenous knowledge as equally valid and essential. Indigenous Knowledge, Systems, and Practices (IKSPs) have long sustained biodiversity, water systems, and resilient food systems .

Commitments on water (SDG 6), energy (SDG 7), and infrastructure (SDG 9) highlight investment and industrialization. Large-scale energy and infrastructure projects often displace Indigenous communities and degrade ecosystems. Without safeguards rooted in Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), these measures may perpetuate dispossession rather than advance equity.

The draft stresses multilateralism and partnerships (paras. 7, 30[g]) Indigenous Peoples must be recognized not only as stakeholders but as self-determining peoples with collective rights. Mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples' representation in SDG governance remain vague and require urgent clarification to ensure meaningful engagement.

The Declaration reaffirms that “there can be no sustainable development without peace” (para. 8). For Indigenous Peoples, peace is inseparable from justice- restoring land rights, protecting defenders, and dismantling systemic discrimination.