



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
MAJOR GROUP

REPORT OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MAJOR GROUP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**THEME: “BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE AND EFFECTIVE PATH FOR THE
ACHIEVEMENT OF THE 2030 AGENDA IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DECADE
OF ACTION AND DELIVERY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The COVID 19 pandemic has worsened inequality and amplified the existing systemic discrimination and marginalization of indigenous peoples, further pushing them behind from reaching sustainable development. Many States were taking advantage of the pandemic to restrict fundamental rights and freedoms and to criminalize indigenous leaders who assert the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples. These measures have resulted in arbitrary arrest and detention as well as extra-judicial killings of indigenous leaders. Further, there is hardly any access to justice for victims and their families.

Land-grabbing and resource extraction by the public and private sector also continued during the pandemic with profound impacts on indigenous peoples. The loss of livelihood due to landgrabs and lockdowns has also resulted in more violence and abuse against indigenous women and girls.

Resilient recovery from the pandemic needs to ensure access to vaccines of indigenous peoples and the strengthening of public health care systems that are accessible to all without discrimination. Likewise, indigenous peoples' efforts and initiatives to address the pandemic and strengthen their resilience for sustainable recovery must be recognized as critical contributions for advancing sustainable development in the decade of action.

The inclusion of indigenous peoples in achieving the SDGs require the respect of fundamental rights and freedoms as well as democratic space that enable their meaningful participation without fear. Likewise, targeted policies, measures and programmes that are fully aligned with the respect of the rights and wellbeing of indigenous peoples must be developed with their full and effective participation; and sufficiently resourced for proper implementation, monitoring and reporting.

The current priority for economic growth for COVID recovery is inconsistent with the need to balance the social, environment and economic dimensions of the SDGs. In fact, many States have weakened their policies for environment protection and restricted democratic participation in order to pursue their economic targets in the guise of pursuing COVID recovery and advancing the SDGs. Likewise, many corporations continue to exploit indigenous peoples' lands and resources for profit but now labeled this exploitation as contributing to the pandemic recovery and supporting sustainable development

The decade of action to achieve the SDGs must include the implementation of States' obligations and commitments to human rights including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the national level. Likewise, data disaggregation by ethnicity to make indigenous peoples visible in monitoring and reporting under the follow-up and review processes at all levels is needed. Moreover, the implementation of the recommendations of the human rights system relating to indigenous peoples will accelerate their inclusion in the SDGs as well as in advancing the pledge of leaving no one behind.

Inclusive pathways to achieve the SDGs must ensure policy coherence and transformational actions anchored in the recognition of and respect for human rights, environment protection and a paradigm shift to sustainable economic models. We need strong global solidarity, political will and effective accountability mechanisms of States to primarily serve the interest and wellbeing of their citizens including indigenous peoples and to protect the planet.

Prepared by:

Joan Carling

Co-convenor - Indigenous Peoples Major Group



**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MAJOR GROUP
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



WWW.INDIGENOUSPEOPLES-SDG.ORG



[@INDIGENOUSPEOPLESMAJORGROU PSDG](https://www.facebook.com/INDIGENOUSPEOPLESMAJORGROU PSDG)



[@IPMGSDG](https://twitter.com/IPMGSDG)



This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.