

## **SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

Today, there are approximately 370 million Indigenous Peoples living in 90 countries worldwide. Indigenous Peoples constitute about 5% of the world population yet are overrepresented in almost every poor measure of modern life. In settled nations such as Australia, Canada and the United States, the majority – as much as 71% - live in metropolitan areas.

Whether through displacement, migration or settler intrusion on our homelands, Indigenous people have been separated from country and each other.

We are concerned that, while the goal to ‘Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable’ may seem neutral, neoliberal political economies rely on concepts that reconstitute *who we are as Indigenous peoples*. Thus, the homogenization of cities makes us invisible and inherently discriminated in terms of access to basic services, appropriate education and employment resulting to our further marginalization and exploitation as “city dwellers”.

City planning – housing - ‘progress’ – demand a certain type of subjectivity that favors business and commercialization of basic services. Indigenous persons living in cities and settlements are reframed by values that uphold supremacy, domination capitalism, patriarchy and discrimination.

Our values and moral orders become persistently qualified as inferior and commoditised, and states abscond their responsibilities to protect and serve those most affected: Indigenous women, children and youth.

### **(RECOMMENDATION)**

Respect and protection of cultural diversity and Indigenous people must be recognised for **who we are** in *whatever* location we live.

Planning must be localised, inclusive resilient *and* regenerative, taking into account the specific cultures and needs of indigenous peoples and marginalized groups

Housing must be more than adequate: it must be financially and ecologically affordable, culturally and socially sound. It must make sense to the environment and the people in it; co-created not with goals of commerce and greed but of nurturing and regeneration.

Specific measures to address the condition of indigenous peoples in cities for appropriate housing, access to basic services and employment shall be developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples including women, youth and persons with disabilities.