

Statement on the Regional Road Map
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The Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG) welcomes the Regional Road Map Report on the SDGs.

Under the theme of “leaving no one behind” the report states “Despite high and enduring economic growth and significant progress in terms of poverty eradication, inequality persists in the Asia-Pacific region, and in some instances has intensified. Growing disparities in income and wealth, as well as inequality of opportunity, disproportionately affect women and vulnerable groups”. At the same time, the report also refers to encouraging progress in terms of implementing thirty-six global means of implementation targets in the leaving no one behind priority area of cooperation.

What we believe as areas for improvement in the report is also to provide the underlying factors on the growing disparities in income, wealth and inequality of opportunities among others. Addressing the underlying factors and barriers should then be included as recommendations in advancing the SDGs and not limited to accelerating implementation of the other targets.

We also wish to draw attention to the continuing general reference to vulnerable groups as those left behind. Unless we clearly identify these groups and ensure the protection of their rights, as well as their meaningful participation in designing specific measures and programmes to address their specific conditions, needs and priorities, we will not be able to achieve the overarching goal of leaving no one behind. Participatory monitoring and reporting with data-disaggregation by sex, age, ethnicity and abilities is needed to measure gaps and progress on their inclusion.

For Indigenous peoples across the region, we insist that we need to be identified as indigenous peoples and not just part of the vulnerable group. 2/3 of the world's indigenous peoples of more than 400 million are in Asia, majority remains poor, and our rights are systematically violated particularly our rights to our lands and resources which are targeted for economic growth and development. We are even criminalized when we defend our rights, and we have no access to justice. These are the underlying factors of why we are not just left behind but are being pushed behind further. At the same time, our contributions to sustainable development thru conservation and sustainable resource management among others are not acknowledged and are even undermined.

We thereby urgently request a regional mechanism to identify those left behind and to address their specific concerns and inclusion in the SDGs thru the regional roadmap process. In particular, this regional mechanism should provide avenues for those left behind to present their views and report in terms of gaps, progress and challenges in their inclusion in achieving the SDGs under the theme of leaving no one behind as one of the priority areas of the regional roadmap.

Thank you for your attention.