

High Level Political Forum (HLPF 2019)

Statement of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG)

July 9, 2019

WHO IS AT RISK TO BE LEFT BEHIND

As we are now in the 4th year for the SDG implementation, Indigenous Peoples need concrete and targeted actions on the ground in line with the pledge of leaving no one behind:

1. For States to fully implement their human rights obligations including the recognition and protection of the right to land, territories and resources of indigenous peoples
2. For States to establish effective mechanisms for sustained engagement, participation and inclusion of indigenous peoples; develop and implement appropriate measure and programmes to address their specific needs including indigenous women and their aspirations for sustainable development with sufficient resources; and to conduct data - disaggregation by sex and ethnicity
3. For UN agencies, funds and programs as well as other development actors to strengthen their efforts to reach out to indigenous peoples at all levels and establish partnerships to support their self-determined development and wellbeing under a rights-based approach to sustainable development

There are more than 370 million indigenous peoples which is 5 % of the global population but 15 % of the poorest. In particular indigenous women experience multiple layers of discrimination as women and as indigenous peoples. The intersection of gender, ethnicity and poverty renders them more vulnerable to oppression, exploitation, abuse and violence due to the prevalence of patriarchal system and the continuing violations of indigenous peoples' collective rights. The overwhelming reality of discrimination of and continued violence faced by indigenous women in particular and of indigenous peoples in general illustrates that they are extremely lagging behind in achieving the SDGs. The increasing land dispossession including forced eviction of indigenous peoples, the alarming incidents of criminalization of indigenous men and women, and the increasing conflicts and violence in indigenous territories; and the lack of access to justice are all contrary to the pledge of leaving no one behind and are even pushing them behind.

While indigenous peoples manage 80 % of the global biodiversity with their conservation and sustainable resource management systems of which indigenous women play a vital role, this is not fully taken into account in ensuring that they are protected and supported. In fact, indigenous peoples continue to be sacrificed directly or taken as collateral damage when states and business pursue their economic development plans without regard to the rights and wellbeing of indigenous peoples including indigenous women. The business as usual and top down approach remain dominant in the implementation of the SDGs which is only worsening the inequality, exclusion and discrimination of indigenous peoples with disproportionate impacts to indigenous women.