



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MAJOR GROUP

Indigenous Peoples Statement on the Regional perspectives on accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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I am Robie Halip from the Kalanguya and Kankanaey indigenous peoples in the Philippines and representing the IPMG and the Indigenous Peoples constituency of the APRCEM.

After six years of implementation of the SDGs, indigenous peoples in the region remain not only furthest behind in terms of poverty reduction and access to appropriate social services, among others, but also continue to suffer from land dispossession, rising inequalities, climate change, forest degradation, loss of biodiversity, conflicts on resource-use and lack of access to justice. This situation is further compounded by the COVID19.

Our contributions to sustainable development as agents of change and the persistence of their sustainable lifeways, knowledge, skills and values as critical to advancing sustainable development are not protected and supported.

On the contrary, indigenous peoples' sustainable livelihoods and legitimate actions to defend their rights to lands, territories and resources are being criminalized with increasing cases of persecution, extra-judicial killings and other gross human rights violations.

With the spread of COVID19, many indigenous communities have revived and implemented traditional community lockdowns to prevent contamination. This has been successful for indigenous communities that have secure land tenure, sufficient food supply and are able to continue their subsistence economy and other livelihood activities. This is not the case though for indigenous communities whose territories have been overtaken by illegal logging, mining, and other destructive projects implemented without their Free, Prior, and Informed Consent.

Indigenous peoples play a critical role in the achievement of sustainable development and our sustainable resource management practices can help prevent the spread of emerging zoonotic diseases. On this, Indigenous peoples as rights-holders, actors and partners in development must be recognized including the full recognition, respect and protection of our collective rights enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Indigenous peoples, including indigenous women, youth, and persons with disabilities among others, must be able to meaningfully participate in decision-making related to response and recovery measures on the covid-19 pandemic and processes related to SDGs at all levels. Further, political will and resources are urgently needed to undertake data-disaggregation by ethnicity in the monitoring and reporting on the SDGs at all levels to make indigenous peoples visible and accounted for in the SDG implementation.

A shift from the current exploitative, extractive, and destructive development to a rights-based development that puts the people and planet first is urgently needed.

