

Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development (IPMG) Statement

Thematic Session 4: SDGs in focus: 1, 2, 8, 17 (How do we get on track to end poverty and hunger, and transform towards inclusive and sustainable economies?)

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The COVID 19 pandemic has aggravated poverty and hunger for Indigenous Peoples, who comprises 15% of the poorest even before the pandemic, further exposing the glaring inequality and discrimination. The increasing poverty and hunger amongst Indigenous Peoples is also the result of relentless exploitation of our lands and resources severely affecting our sustainable food systems, livelihoods, and health condition. Further to this are the narrow conservation measures implemented in our territories that prohibits the utilization of non-timber forest products and the practice of our sustainable livelihoods and even causing the eviction of indigenous communities in spite of the pandemic.

Further, the present targets of many countries for economic recovery from the pandemic remain business as usual with unsustainable use of resources for agri-business, large infrastructures, mining, and energy projects. These will only aggravate inequality, further marginalization of indigenous peoples, and the continuing violation of our rights to our lands, territories, and resources, to self-determination and to our wellbeing.

In order to get on track to end poverty and hunger for inclusive and sustainable economies, it is urgent to transform the current unsustainable global economy controlled by corporations and few elites towards a people-centered and care- oriented economies respecting our planetary boundaries. This requires the recognition and protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples to our lands, territories and resources, the support to our sustainable food systems and livelihoods, and the implementation of appropriate social protection measures and provisions for basic social services that takes into consideration the specific needs of indigenous persons with disabilities, women, and children. It should also include effective mechanisms for inclusion and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples, women, persons with dis-abilities and other marginalized sectors as rights-holders and development actors in the planning for economic recovery targets to ensure that our needs, priorities, and rights are fully accounted and our efforts and initiatives for our economic empowerment are fully included and supported.