

STATEMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MAJOR GROUP

SESSION: WORKING TOWARDS THE 2023 SDG SUMMIT
JULY 7, 2022, 12 NOON - 1 PM

Taigüei (Greetings), my name is Roberto Mukaro Agüebana Borrero. I am a member of the Guainía Taíno Tribe and I am currently one of two co-convenors for the Indigenous Peoples Major Group.

This SDG Summit can contribute to revamping the sense of ownership and enthusiasm that characterized the elaborations of the 2030 Agenda only by being bold and rebuilding trust. For this to happen planning and coordination needs to be transparent and inclusive. From the outset, the 2023 SDG Summit should clearly reaffirm that Intergovernmental decisions will have stronger and broader recognition and support by the public if governments take Major Groups and other Stakeholders views into account as early as possible in policy-making and decision-making processes.

Pre and post Summit, dedicated regional consultations for Indigenous Peoples, in close collaboration with Indigenous Peoples organizations and institutions, should be conducted to assess how Indigenous Peoples' meaningful direct participation and inclusion in the SDG implementation can be improved especially at the local and national levels.

On the VNR process, the conduct of VLRs should be strengthened and should also put in place mechanisms for the meaningful engagement of the civil society, Indigenous Peoples, and other grassroots movements and communities. A participatory review of the VNR process at the national levels likewise needs to be conducted to also strengthen the engagement of Indigenous Peoples and the civil society in the national review and reporting of the SDG implementation. If we are to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, the full and effective participation including the respect and recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples is imperative.

Planning for the SDG Summit should involve the direct participation of Indigenous Peoples as was done during the ECOSOC Partnership Forum. If the goal is for this Summit to be unique and bring the voices of marginalized groups youth and children, Indigenous Peoples, women, small farmers and other grassroots community representatives to the forefront, then we respectfully recommend official co-coordination be undertaken with the HLPF Major Groups and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism.

Major Groups and other Stakeholders play a direct role in the formation of policy as researchers, think-tanks, and watchdogs, or through advocacy. This Summit can be an opportunity to propose and implement frameworks so that Countries use our expertise to accelerate progress towards the SDGs at national level. As Indigenous Peoples, we enter these intergovernmental spaces with our future generations in mind. This Summit should also hold this ideal at its core and culminate by providing all participants with empowering actions that can be implemented with the urgency that all Peoples and the Planet deserve.

In closing, I thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this dialogue on working toward a 2023 SDG Summit, whose outcomes should, in our view, be transformative and focus on accelerated implementation using a human rights-based framework. As Indigenous Peoples, we enter these intergovernmental spaces with our future generations in mind. This Summit should also hold this ideal at its core and culminate by providing all participants with empowering actions that can be implemented with the urgency that all Peoples and the Planet deserve.