African countries, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries - Turning the tide, regaining lost ground & embarking on the road to the SDGs.

July 13 - 4:15 - 6:00 PM EST

Thank you for this opportunity to make a statement on behalf of Indigenous peoples.

Indigenous peoples in least developed countries continue to be victims of development programs intended to address the SDGs particularly on poverty, climate change and economic investment  which  are being implemented without the recognition and respect of Indigenous Peoples rights thus resulting to displacement of Indigenous Peoples from their lands, loss of livelihood, food insecurity and human rights violations.

Indigenous peoples strongly urge governments to tie up implementation of SDGs with their human rights obligations and ensure that indigenous peoples rights are recognised and respected in the course of implementation of SDGs.

We strongly argue for the government to ensure the principle of leaving no one behind.

In the current situation different states have been using SDGs as  justification for dispossession and displacement of indigenous peoples through mega investment development, renewable energy and  infrastructure as well as conservation and climate related projects excluding  indigenous peoples.

In my region only one country currently provides legal recognition for Indigenous Peoples. We urge other states to adopt laws and policies that recognize collective rights especially to lands and resources and  self determined  development.

Nonrecognition  of rights leads to serious violations particularly to our rights to land and livelihood.

If we are to reach the goal of leaving no one behind, the respect and recognition of Indigenous Peoples in the implementation of the SDGs is critical. Development initiatives have to be aligned to their  self determined priorities.

Thank you chairperson