

Statement for Interactive Dialogue – SDG 7 Event

The Indigenous Peoples Major Group to the SDGs would like to make a contribution to this discussion, and call for stronger rights-based policies related to SDG 7.

While representing only 5% of the global population, indigenous peoples make up a staggering one third of the world's 900 million extremely poor rural people. Given that the rural poor form the bulk of those without access to energy, **indigenous people are a critical demographic that needs to be put at the centre of the global dialogue on energy** if SDG 7 on ensuring access to energy for all is to be achieved.

Despite this fact, **indigenous peoples suffer invisibility when it comes to energy access**. There is little disaggregated data on indigenous peoples' access to. Major reports from initiatives aligned with SDG 7 either don't mention, or only superficially refer to, indigenous peoples and fail to examine their unique challenges as a distinct group.

At the same time, **indigenous territories host renewable energy projects** without meaningful consultation and consent by indigenous peoples and in violation to their rights to their lands and resources. These projects have resulted in conflicts, displacements, destruction of livelihoods, and have violated indigenous peoples' rights and undermined their self-determined development. Those who have spoken out against these projects have at times been threatened or murdered.

It is thereby imperative that the implementation of Goal 7 is guided by clear policies on the respect and protection of human rights, ensure equitable benefits for communities, and mechanisms for participation and inclusion of indigenous peoples and marginalized groups in the planning (including decision-making), implementation and monitoring. This will also ensure that the interlinkages of Goal 7 with other Goals for positive outcomes will be achieved such as Goals 1,2, 5, 10, 13, 17 among others **in the context of "leaving no one behind"**.

Thus, activities to implement SDG 7 affecting indigenous peoples should adhere to existing international human rights laws and norms relating to indigenous peoples. The two main international instruments that explicitly define indigenous peoples' rights under international law, the **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** (UNDRIP) and the **ILO Convention No. 169**, should guide sustainable energy related activities.

Given these significant challenges and also opportunities, the **Indigenous Peoples' Major Group on the SDGs** is developing an **indigenous peoples-led and rights-based the multi-stakeholder partnership called Right Energy Partnership (REP)** with indigenous peoples in order to:

- Empower indigenous communities in their self-determined sustainable development, through access to appropriate renewable energy ensuring equitable and inclusive benefits for communities
- Ensure the protection of rights to prevent the adverse impacts of renewable energy development on indigenous communities; and
- Strengthen knowledge exchange, solidarity and collaboration between indigenous peoples and other actors to contribute towards the goals of the Partnership.

18 April 2018

We call on actors in the room today to join us in this innovative and rights-based partnership to achieve Goal 7 and related goals in achieving sustainable development for indigenous peoples in line with the pledge of “leaving no one behind”.

We would be happy to share more information, and invite you to a consultation on the Partnership that will take place on Thursday 19 April between 1:15-2:30 in Conference Room S-2725 BR on the 27th Floor.

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