SDG7 & interlinkages with other SDGs - Affordable & clean energy.

July 12 - 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM EST

This statement is delivered on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development (IPMG) and the Right Energy Partnership with Indigenous Peoples (REP), an indigenous-led, multi-stakeholder partnership, established with the goal of increasing renewable energy systems that respect human rights and leveraging the leadership of indigenous communities to develop solutions.

Indigenous Peoples constitute majority of the reported 675 million without access to affordable and reliable clean energy. On top of this, our lands and territories are subjected to multiple threats with the rise of mega hydropower projects, solar and wind farms, including geothermal projects and mining of transition minerals that are being implemented without our Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

We are not against the transition to clean energy but this has to be implemented with the recognition and respect of Indigenous Peoples rights. A Just Transition that promotes people-led processes  to change the current unjust energy system is urgently needed. Laws and policies on mining and renewable energy should ensure that the rights of Indigenous Peoples are recognized and respected.

Support for Indigenous-led solutions and initiatives including adoption of policies advancing community ownership of renewable energy projects should be strengthened. The scope of these initiatives may be small scale but the impact is significant and contributes to the achievement of the other SDGs. Financing in relation to Goal 7 must underpin the long-term visions for self-determined development of Indigenous Peoples. Support, through direct partnership with Indigenous Peoples, for these community based initiatives coupled with technology transfer, capacity building, and inter-learning exchanges should be enhanced.

The shift from fossil fuels and the goal of achieving net zero emissions can only be just if the implementation is firmly grounded on the recognition and respect of human rights including Indigenous Peoples rights.