SDG 6 & interlinkages with other SDGs - Clean water and sanitation.

Indigenous Peoples Major Group, July 11, 10 - 1:00 PM

July 11 - 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM EST

Taigüei itiaono (Greetings relatives), on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group on the SDGs, I thank you for this opportunity. Representing the International Indian Treaty Council, I am one of two co-convenors of this coordination body along with Vicky Tauli Corpuz, representing the Tebtebba Foundation. The Indigenous Peoples Major Group is the main coordination mechanism for Indigenous Peoples within the SDG process.

SDG 6 calls for ensuring universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, and sanitation. Nearly every one of the [other SDG goals](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/) rely in some way on Water, sanitation, and hygiene. Critically, the United Nations General Assembly recognizes access to safe water and sanitation as [human rights](http://www.unwater.org/water-facts/human-rights/).

In advance of the recent UN Water Conference, Indigenous Peoples reflected on, discussed, and developed recommendations for the actions required by the international community to protect, defend and safeguard water. For Indigenous Peoples, these actions, to be effective, must first recognize and implement our rights and knowledge.   
  
It is unfortunate, however, that Indigenous Peoples’ rights, knowledge and time-tested solutions have not been effectively included nor considered in most of these discussions, especially around SDG6.   
  
Like the Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Desertification agendas, the SDGs will not be achieved without the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples. **The recognition of Indigenous Peoples beyond vulnerable groups and the respect for our rights need to be reaffirmed within the upcoming SDG summit and we call upon States to recognize our rights, explicitly, in the Summit’s political Declaration.**

For Indigenous Peoples, water is an inherent and inalienable right and responsibility. Water will continue to sustain us only if conscious and committed measures are taken for its protection. We honor water as our first home. It is essential for the production of our food and the reproduction of all species. Clean water is an essential traditional medicine, a source of healing and life-renewal in our ceremonial and spiritual practices. **We are water and without it we would not exist.**

In conclusion, I share the expressed commitment of the Indigenous Peoples Coalition to the UN 2023 Water Conference: **Indigenous Peoples commit to actively engage, coordinate and plan with national, regional and local governments as well as UN bodies, based on their full recognition of our rights and respect for the value of our contributions, in order to produce positive results for the protection of water, and promote solutions that benefit our future generations, the natural world and all humanity.**

Mr. Chair, Hahom itiaono (thank you relatives)!