**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MAJOR GROUP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Statement to the draft 2024 HLPF Ministerial Declaration

We do not endorse the current wording in Para 11 that states “People who are vulnerable must be empowered.” Same wording that is in the SDG Summit Political Declaration which we do not endorse as this reinforces the current development paradigm which is a very top down approach and only looks at us (Indigenous Peoples) as beneficiaries and not partners and contributors to sustainable development. We therefore recommend for the deletion of that sentence. Further we recommend that in para 6 and para 17 where partnership is mentioned that partnerships with Indigenous Peoples be also established or strengthened.

In para 5, we also strongly recommend to adopt the previous HLPF Ministerial Declaration language which states, ”We commit to ensure the sustainable management of forests and the protection, restoration, conservation and sustainable use of important landscapes; recognize the vital role of indigenous peoples as stewards of the forests and biodiversity; and commit to protecting the rights of indigenous peoples under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the section discussing climate change.” We further recommend for the need for direct access to funding be provided for Indigenous Peoples in the section discussing climate finance.

We endorse the reference to Indigenous Peoples in para 28 we hope this will be maintained.

In para 52, not just accurate and comparable data but also a robust disaggregated data that takes into consideration ethnicity, disability, and other characteristics is needed.