

**FIFTH ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (APFSD)  
UNITED NATIONS CENTRE, BANGKOK, 28-30 MARCH 2018**

**Statement: Indigenous Peoples Constituency**

SESSION 7: Partnerships for the Implementation of the SDGs

Mr. Chair,

We welcome the 12 steps of Multi stakeholder partnership framework, proposed in the document in reference to this Agenda item, on Partnerships in Asia and the Pacific for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development cycle.

In the document, partnerships are considered as a system of collaborative processes that support each other. However, we are concern that the public-private partnerships promoted by the SDGs will evict us from our lands and territories, destroy our traditional knowledge and governance, threatening our survival.

1. Furthermore, the SDGs are strongly anchored on the principles of human rights and democracy. However, there is an increasing trend of targeting human rights and environmental defenders in many countries of Asia. The recent case being the allegation against renowned indigenous leaders in Asia as terrorists. This is a trend that will seriously hamper the achievement of the universal commitment of the SDGs.

3. Governments shall establish and communicating a transparent, participatory and inclusive national review processes, by building multi-stakeholder partnership framework which is based on equitable relationships with the rights holders as identified in the. Governments need to strengthen efforts to publicize their plans and opportunities for participation, sharing common challenges and increase right-holders and stakeholder engagement.

Governments shall welcome data generation by indigenous communities and establish full and effective partnership with us, such as with the initiative on Indigenous Navigator.

Mr. Chair,

Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the delegation from Sweden who yesterday in this plenary, recognized the need for a broader engagement and the the roles of rights holders and the need to analyze the other knowledge systems” for relevant solutions that is “with people” instead of “for the people”. There need to be more research on participation, that is full, effective and is “not forced” and not limited.

We also thank IFAD, and FAO and IUCN for recognizing the importance of indigenous peoples’ rights as well as small scale farmers, women and youth and the contribution of our livelihoods and traditional knowledge to ecosystems functions and services, including our spiritual relationship with Mother nature.

The realization of “leaving no one behind” is possible only with the full recognition and integrating of human rights commitments into national laws, regulations and policies that includes and ensuring “full and effective” participation of the rights holders - not limited to but including indigenous peoples, fisher folks, persons with disabilities, women, youth and others.