

**Indigenous Peoples' statement for the major group intervention session,
Inter linkages and cross cutting issues Friday 27th February 2009**

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Indigenous Peoples see the thematic issues (Agriculture, Land, Rural development, drought desertification and Africa) discussed here interlinked. The discussions have further discussed climate change water and gender mainstreaming just mentioned a few, which are all related and one cannot do without the other. There is need then for a holistic approach using national sustainable development strategies and other national sustainable development plans that can yield better results by addressing the interlinkages among the issues especially when considering policy options and implementing on the ground projects.

Enhancing participatory decision making by different key players including indigenous peoples, women and youth, human and social capital through education information and awareness, inclusive social participation, improved infrastructure services, strengthening and promoting non farming employment, managing natural resources in an integrated and holistic manner, strengthening and enabling environment for the implementation is crucial for sustainable development.

Policies and actions to promote environmental sustainable consumption patterns relation to food, fuel, water and agro industrial products are needed and will consequently improve the environment sustainability of agricultural and livestock production patterns. Such policies should be gender balance based approach and should promote indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge systems and innovations in the collective management and conservation of their water resources

In different regions, Indigenous peoples are collectively linking and sharing their related activities. It has proves successful working together in different subregions as communities are related despite being from a different country. It is important that Policy options and possible actions directed towards promoting regional and interregional corporation be enhanced by greater focus on the interlinkages among the six thematic areas with full participation and contribution by indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders.

With regard to regional cooperation in combating drought and desertification, it is essential that the regional information base on drought and desertification be improved and that both scientific and indigenous knowledge of indigenous and local communities application be enhanced through programmes to strengthen the collection of information through target research.

Water provides an important link to agriculture, livestock production rural development a community based approach for pursuing forward looking management and development of water resources should be encouraged. It will be also important to ensure that policy

options can help prevent the destruction of natural habitats and ecosystems, pollutions in land and waters, depletion of water sources due to extractive industries such as mining and large dams; and establish measures to sanction the violator

Climate change can pass as treat to prosperity and security through social and economic disruptions. Adverse climate conditions can result in drought- induced agriculture failure, diminish food security, heightened hunger and increased mortality. Policies to respond these challenges develop effective drought early warning systems and incorporate indigenous knowledge by indigenous and local communities who are holders of the knowledge.

Capacity building at the local and national level is necessary in order to achieve the interdisciplinary expertise required to deal with challenges of the thematic issues

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