

Statement- Analysis of the 3. Version of the focus area document from Co-chairs (to 11th OWG session May 5-9)

Dear Co-chairs, the IPMG is pleased to see your leadership and progress working on document. We acknowledge that the process is moving forward with focus areas further developed and well synthesized into the 'Working Document for OWG-11'.

However, we would like to note, that despite our efforts and wide recognition of indigenous issues during OWG10, Indigenous Peoples were taken out of the document. During OWG10 we felt that we made a huge leap forward as many of the member states incorporated Indigenous Peoples in regards to one or more issues, many of the joint statements from major groups made references to issues specific to Indigenous Peoples, yet today we feel that our efforts did not result in meaningful change.

Compared to the previous document where Indigenous Peoples were directly mentioned six times, the current version mentions Indigenous Peoples only twice - under focus area 2 and 14. We recognize that Indigenous Peoples were footnoted multiple times in the document supporting common positions agreed upon by a number of major groups, and we are glad that many of these points were taken into consideration, however, several important points pertinent specifically to Indigenous Peoples were overlooked. Some of the most important ones are on poverty eradication, employment, human rights, culture, health and education.

On poverty eradication:

As in our previous response paper, The Indigenous Peoples Major Group strongly urges the co-chairs and member states to focus on the measure of **well-being rather than on income alone**. As mentioned in our previous statements and appeals most Indigenous Peoples rely on non-monetary forms of income such as subsistence resources from hunting, gathering, pastoralism, and small scale agriculture and farming, which make up to **90%** of their livelihoods. Monetary measure of poverty are not sufficient and can contribute to impoverishing Indigenous Peoples. We should move beyond the single-dimensional mind frame and collectively come up with a formula and indicators that truly reflect the measure of well-being such as access to subsistence resources, water, status of health and etc.

In addition, in relation to poverty eradication, we would like to highlight that Indigenous Peoples are disproportionately reflected among the very poor, and this relates to lack of recognition of their land rights. Dear co-chairs, we are asking to include a target on protecting individual and collective land rights of indigenous peoples and land tenure under poverty eradication.

On employment:

We are generally supportive of the newly formulated targets on employment and we think that it's a good idea to tie it to sustainable and inclusive economic growth. We are happy to see the target j) - to encourage formalization of informal sector activities and employment. However, it's important to clarify: a. what is meant by informal activities and employment (**could be drug trafficking or could be traditional occupations by Indigenous Peoples**); b. not only to encourage but to officially recognize traditional occupations as forms of employment. With this we propose to formulate target j) officially recognize traditional occupations as forms of employment as essential to achieving and sustaining Indigenous Peoples' and other communities' well-being and livelihoods.

On human rights:

The IMPG is greatly concerned that the new document still fails to adequately address human rights. We understand the intent to infuse human rights into all of the focus areas, however, the document shies away from directly mentioning human rights and setting specific targets. Thinking that human rights is a given is of course a wonderful prospect for the future generations but unfortunately, is not the case in the current political, economic and environmental realities across the globe. With this, the IMPG still pushes for a stand-alone goal on human rights and "zero" targets on discrimination and violation based on gender, age, income, disability, ethnic origin, and etc.

Secondly, we would like to support a position by other major groups and a group Beyond 2015 on ensuring that the private sector and international financial institutions remain accountable and fully respect human rights and the environment. It is extremely important that Indigenous Peoples voices are heard in the context of environmental rights. Therefore, in addition to mandating independent human rights and environmental impact assessments, the IPMG is asking to include a target requiring governments, business and corporations to recognize and adhere to principles of **Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)** that would provide Indigenous Peoples leverage and a tool to keep their ancestral domains intact and free from encroaching industrial development.

On culture and education:

During OWG10 many of the member states emphasized the importance of culture in sustainable development and the future of humanity, however, almost none of the suggestions were reflected in the new document. We understand, that a stand-alone goal on culture might not be a reality for the next fifteen years, but we do urge you to give culture adequate recognition and incorporate in other focus areas. We recognize that culture was mentioned under education (4F), but the language is unclear, nebulous and rather suggestive. We would like to see a more concrete language that would ensure protection of cultural legacy and practices, without which, we can not be identified as distinct Indigenous Peoples. Therefore, yet again, the IMPG is asking to include targets that respect and protect cultural diversity, the right and access to culturally appropriate education based on inter-culturalism and bi-linguism, and promote intergenerational transfer of Indigenous Peoples' cultural heritage, traditional knowledge systems and practices.

On health:

Much to our surprise, we noticed that the current version of the document no longer has a possible target on "dissemination of medical and public health knowledge, including traditional knowledge", a target which was celebrated by the IPMG in the previous version. Secondly, although during the OWG10 the IPMG supported the joint statement on health overall, we noticed that the areas of concern specific to Indigenous Peoples were overlooked in the new version. As IMPG we would like to reiterate the importance of our traditional health practices and reinstate the target in the current version.

Thank you,
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Indigenous Peoples Major Group