

Opening Statement of Indigenous Peoples Major Group  
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Thank you Mr. Chair, for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group. Based on our recommendations for the priorities for action which we submitted for CSD19, we again reiterate that Indigenous Peoples can contribute significantly as active partners for the implementation of our common efforts for sustainable development.

As we had stressed, Indigenous Peoples continue to practice more sustainable ways of living characterized by a holistic development model with small ecological footprints; underpinned by our indigenous values such as reciprocity, diversity, solidarity, accountability, and our cultural views in harmony with Mother Earth. In order to fulfill sustainable development, Indigenous Peoples strongly recommend that this should be linked with the respect, protection and fulfillment of our human rights as embodied in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP); which provides the overarching framework and minimum standard in our engagement with this multi-stakeholder CSD process.

We therefore call on governments to provide clear, coherent, stricter rules and enforceable frameworks of laws and regulations to fulfill their commitments and obligations related to the thematic issues of CSD19. We further call on governments and the UN system to provide at all levels the full, effective and enhanced participation of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples, local communities, women, youth and other major groups as key players to sustainable development. Enhancement of support for capacity building, more information sharing and education, strengthening dialogues and involvement of all stakeholders will all contribute in our partnership towards the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns for the future generations.

With these, we should seriously work as partners towards achieving our goals in promoting the respect of human rights and social concerns, facilitating economic growth and development towards poverty reduction, enforcing social and environmental safeguards in the protection of the various ecosystems, biodiversity and the remaining natural resources against further degradation particularly from the continuing impacts of mining and other extractive industries, toxic chemical waste contamination, as well as, the climate change crisis. Such wholistic and integrated framework on sustainable development can only be achieved with greater political will, coherence of institutional policies and programs, and improved governance with transparency and accountability of governments and the UN system.

Thank you Mr. Chair.