

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 16th session, April 24 - May 5, 2017

Item 9: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Statement by the International Indian Treaty Council presented by Roberto Borrero (Taíno)

Thank you, Madame Chair. The International Indian Treaty Council is one of two Global Organizing Partners, with the Tebtebba Foundation, for the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for the Sustainable Development Goals, so I am also contributing these comments in that capacity. We also welcome the new regional organizing partners from each of the 7 regions and look forward to broadening Indigenous awareness and direct participation as the SDG's move into the implementation phase on the regional and state level, since the UN SDG Agenda will continue to directly affect us and our land and resources for the next 15 years and much longer.

States have agreed to develop action plans for national level SDG implementation that would include input from all stakeholders. Indigenous Peoples are not only stake holders; we are knowledge and rights holders and must be included in this decision-making process that affects our rights and lives in accordance with the UN Declaration Article 18. The participation of Indigenous food producers and traditional knowledge holders and Indigenous traditional authorities and governments is also particularly important. One of the 6 places where Indigenous Peoples are mentioned in the SDG's is the goal related to improving agricultural production. As such, the role of Indigenous Peoples and other small-scale producers is vital.

We therefore thank the Permanent Forum Secretariat for posting as a Conference Room Paper [E/C.19/2017/CRP.1] the Declaration of Tecpan from the 3rd International Indigenous Peoples Corn Conference, which took place in Guatemala earlier this year with the participation of over 140 Indigenous knowledge holders and food producers from North, Central, South America and the Caribbean. They affirmed in this Declaration the importance of their voices being included in these processes, stating by consensus "*We insist that States include Indigenous Peoples in decision-making that affects our lives and rights including our food sovereignty*".

In this regard, we look forward to the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in the UN Ocean Conference in June of this year. This high-level United Nations Conference is being convened to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

In closing, we strongly recommend that the UNPFII request in future sessions that States report on steps they have taken to develop National Action Plans, which include indicators developed by and relevant to Indigenous Peoples including their rights to their traditional lands and resources, self-determination and free prior and informed consent.

Finally, we also invite all interested participants to find out more about work of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for the SDG's and how to engage by joining the IPMG list serve or contacting the organizing partners directly.

Hahon ituno kena atiaono (Thank you brothers and sisters).