

**Statement from the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group on
Review of Implementation of UNEA Resolutions
Statement By: Florence Florence Daguitan
Tebtebba**

Thank you Chair for giving us the opportunity to take the floor.
I speak in behalf of the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group.

We the indigenous peoples who are dependent on the natural environment for our food, livelihoods, energy, culture and well being, highly appreciate the emphasis given to environmental consideration of any development which was underscored in UNEA II. However, we still see prioritization of economic development over the obligations to protect the environment. We continue a life and death struggle against expansion of mono crop plantations and deforestation, corporate mining, mega dams and waste being dumped in our territories.

We still witness the vicious cycle of ecological damage from climate change triggered disasters and worsening climate change due to ecological damage; of human rights violation of environmental defenders, of failed commitments for a paradigm shift in development that takes into account the dimensions of human rights, equity and environmental justice. The exploitation of our natural resources, pollution and deforestations, worsen our poverty situation and weaken our capacity to adapt to climate change.

On our part, we have continued to play our role as stewards and custodians of the world's biodiversity and practiced our traditional ecological knowledge in managing our lands territories and resources and defended our territories against extractive and input based industries, e.g. agro-chemicals to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystems functionality even at the cost of the lives of our leaders and members of our communities.

Nonetheless, we are committed to revitalize and innovate on our indigenous territory management systems and practices that conforms with the ecosystems based approach, e.g

1. Develop further our agro-ecological agriculture systems and promote these to minimize and push for rationale use of chemicals in agriculture and enhance the soils' capacities as carbon sink. We will always remind ourselves that there was a time in history that agriculture has thrive without chemicals, that diversity can be a successful natural pest and disease control for crops and animals and benefits human health as well;
2. Sustain our traditional forests and mangrove management to sustain their other services as habitats, water storage, for cultural purposes, carbon sinks and others

Finally, we demand support and seek partnership for the needed clean up of pollution in our territories from industries and the restoration of degraded landscapes and seascapes .

Thank you Chair

Florence Daguitan
Tebtebba