

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Ministerial Summit on The Environment 2017**

**Agenda 3: Policy perspectives towards a resource-efficient Asia-Pacific region**

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**Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact**

**Thank you ....madam/Sir Chair!**

**Here I am speaking on behalf of indigenous peoples' major group. First of all, I would like to congratulate to you all, the newly elected bureau.**

**Madam Chair,**

Policy regulates to the resources for its efficient and effective mobilization and best utilization. Policy determines on how to manage the natural resources in a sustainable way. The Paris Agreement on Climate Change, United Nations declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) are in place that promote to the sustainable management of the natural resources through the indigenous knowledge prospective. The indigenous peoples have their own customary laws and traditional practices concerning to sustainable natural resources management that has been recognized by those international human rights instruments. The tools and technologies used by indigenous peoples for sustainable management of the natural resources enhance to the environmental protection and conservation.

Madam Chair,

There are many challenges and threats to the actors who are actively working for the sustainable natural resource management. The state policies have not recognized the contribution of the indigenous peoples in sustainable resources management. Instead, they are blamed of destroying the natural resources. The policy gap is an institutional gap that does not limit to the plans and programmes but also limit to the implementation means keeps the away from access to manage the natural resources in an efficient and sufficient way because of that the environmental hazards can not be mitigated and measures can not be taken.

Resource efficiency is yet another challenge. Developing countries in the region, on an average need 5 kgs of material to produce 1 unit of GDP, while industrialized countries need one-fifth of this. According to ESCAP, barring energy efficiency which has registered impressive gains; resource efficiency in the region has been decreasing since 2000. The domestic material consumption and material footprint per capita has been rising and so is resource intensity. There is also very little evidence of any significant decoupling between resource consumption and economic growth except in the energy sector. This trend is highly worrying and governments needs to work together to reverse it at the earliest. It is inspiring to see that most countries which have gained resource efficiency have also progressed on human development index. There is an urgent need to affirm this strong inverse relation between resource consumption and sustainable development and make progress towards absolutely decouple our human well-being from material consumption.

Madam Chair,

**In order to respect the sense and spirit of the SDGs, policy perspectives should;**

1. Prioritize legal recognition of customary land tenure of indigenous peoples, through specific policies, actions, and measures, guided by clear targets, indicators and data-disaggregation including by ethnicity, to be monitored through participatory follow-up and review processes at all levels.
2. Ensure policy cohesion /and balanced implementation of the three dimensions of sustainable development based on respect, protection and realization of human rights. National implementation plans should uphold clear social and environmental safeguards, conduct human rights due diligence, and require the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of indigenous peoples, for actions affecting indigenous rights and welfare.
3. Ensure the full and effective participation of marginalized groups including indigenous peoples in the policy formulation and resources mobilization and utilization.

Last but not least, traditional sustainable resources management systems and practices of the indigenous peoples should be legally recognized and access to financial resources for protection and conservation of the natural resources should be ensured in the policy.

Thank you