

7th Asia Pacific Ministerial Summit on the Environment and Development 2017
Agenda Item 4 Draft Ministerial Declaration on the environment and development

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Thank you Madam Chairperson,

Let me now take this opportunity to thank the governments that are actively participating here, and in an increasingly constructive manner.

I would like to call for your attention to the voice, views and recommendations of more than 270 million indigenous peoples scattered around in the Asia-Pacific region calling for ecological and development justice.

On this agenda item, I refer to specially Goal No 2, 13, 14 and 15 of Sustainable Development Goals and first and the foremost, I would like to emphasize that special measures and measurements are required to overcome the persistent marginalization of indigenous peoples. With traditional knowledge and through sustainable natural resource management systems, indigenous peoples are actively contributing to sustainable development and environment.

However, across the Asia-Pacific region, the practice of traditional occupations such as small-scale farming, shifting cultivation/rotational agriculture, hunting and food gathering are in many cases restricted or prohibited by laws of different States.

I strongly believe that to end hunger, tackle climate change, protect marine life, resources and bio diversity, it is an urgent and important task for the governments of the Asia-Pacific region to take all the necessary measures including to conduct legislative and policy review to protect land and livelihoods rights of indigenous peoples on contributing towards conservation of

environment. The land grabbing is getting increased in Asia Pacific Region in enormous number these days by states and business corporations. We take these increasing land grabbing as a key barrier to nourishing the land and producing food, protecting environment and achieving the sustainable development goals in natural resources friendly way.

Madam Chair,

We voice out to respect and recognize the contribution of indigenous peoples on protecting environment and mentioning of measures to promote and protect FPIC rights of indigenous peoples that has been stated in UNDRIP and Paris Climate Agreement on the draft ministerial declaration which will secure rights to lands, territories and resources for indigenous peoples which is cutting across the sustainable development goals. Recognition, protection and promotion of land rights will have significant contribution to achieve not only Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 13, 14 and 15 in particular but also the whole sustainable development goals in general.

I strongly believe that it is also critical to ensure full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and other stakeholders in the national development planning process including identification and prioritization of the SDG targets and indicators.

Madam Chair,

With these prevailing situations we strongly recommend as follows here:

1. Establishment of permanent, open and inclusive participatory mechanisms and it's implementations from local to national and international level not only for planning but also for monitoring, follow-up and review of the environment and development policies and programs.
2. Consider and recognize Indigenous Peoples Traditional Knowledge as with modern science and technology in protecting and preserving forest and bio diversity.

Thank You for listening to indigenous peoples.