

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

**Indigenous Peoples messages to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eleventh special session**

It is well-known that indigenous peoples' life is strongly depending on the nature (biodiversity, ecosystems, lands and territories). We, more than others, suffer from the environment degradation and climate change consequences.

**On International Environmental Governance**

- Indigenous Peoples express their support to UNEP's activities on improving International Environmental Governance and welcome all the work being done in this area. The efforts on IEG should not be taken only by UNEP, but also by other UN agencies and Governments.
- Governments and UNEP should create opportunities for raising indigenous peoples' awareness on Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and their substantive input to the IEG through the support of relevant programmes on national levels.
- Indigenous Peoples should be included in decision-making and implementation processes for giving more effectiveness to the IEG.
- Governments and UNEP should support indigenous peoples' training and capacity building, so that to enable them to participate effectively in the environmental management.
- Indigenous Peoples urge Governments and UNEP to create a special Fund for supporting indigenous representatives' participation in different international meetings on IEG and MEA implementation.

**On Enhancing synergy among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (Extraordinary COP - ExCOP)**

- Indigenous Peoples, being suffering of waste and pollutants harder than other Major Groups, welcome the enhanced cooperation and coordination among Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and express their readiness to be actively involved to the synergy discussions.
- Governments and UNEP should focus on scaling down persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and persistent toxic substances (PTSs) affecting indigenous peoples' health and traditional resources being the only source of food.
- Indigenous Peoples call upon three Conventions secretariats to enhance their regional offices' work in developing and strengthening the mechanisms for monitoring, storage and elimination of hazardous chemical substances.

- UNEP should encourage on national levels appropriate studies and researches on the scales of chemicals impact on Indigenous Peoples health, and assume measures on reducing their negative impact.

### **On Green Economy**

- UNEP and Governments should create a platform for the promotion of the Green Economy initiative with the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples' appropriate and specific traditional knowledge.
- Indigenous Peoples urge UNEP and Governments to enable Indigenous communities to strengthen their efforts to contribute to the Green Economy activities on national levels.
- UNEP should encourage an appropriate research on the Green Economy's impact on indigenous way of life and on keeping conditions of traditional living environment.

### **On Biodiversity and Ecosystems**

- Governments and UNEP should support Indigenous Peoples better involvement in current activities in biodiversity and ecosystems matters, and guarantee that the worldview of the indigenous peoples be incorporated in the processes for the evaluation and management of the ecosystems' assets and services.
- Indigenous Peoples urge Governments and UNEP to create an alliance with indigenous communities to translate their knowledge, expertise, and technologies in relevant solutions and programs.
- Governments and UNEP should promote the awareness raising and capacity building on national, regional and local levels about the biodiversity and ecosystems issues.
- Indigenous Peoples call upon Governments to put their efforts on eliminating the problem of compliance/implementation of existing international and national legislation on biodiversity.
- Using traditional knowledge in the environment protection Indigenous Peoples urge Governments to recognize their knowledge at global, and mostly at national levels. Because it is well known that the most intact areas with rich biodiversity are preserved by indigenous peoples who practice rational use of ecosystems.

### **Other urgent issues**

- Indigenous Peoples urge UNEP to adopt the UNEP's Strategy on Indigenous Peoples as an evidence of the respect of indigenous peoples' rights, and to use the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a basis for the fruitful and mutually profitable cooperation.
- Governments and UNEP should actively use Indigenous Peoples traditional knowledge on adaptation to climate change, and include their strategies to the international climate policies framework.

