

## **Perspective from Indigenous Peoples MG**

### **Rio+20**

- In the absence of a true implementation of sustainable development, the world is now in a multiple ecological, economic and climatic crisis; including biodiversity erosion, desertification, deglaciation, food, water, energy shortage, a worsening global economic recession, social instability and crisis of values. In this sense, we recognize that much remains to be done for multilateral agreements to respond adequately to the rights and needs of Indigenous Peoples, and that the actual contributions and potentials of our peoples are recognized by a true sustainable development that allows each one of us to live well.
- We continue to challenge this development model, which promotes domination of nature, incessant economic growth, limitless profit-seeking resource extraction, unsustainable consumption and production and the unregulated commodities and financial markets. This prevailing system fails to understand that humans are an integral part of the natural world, and fails to respect inherent human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples. We believe that our worldviews and respect for natural law, our spiritualities and cultures and our values of reciprocity, harmony with nature, solidarity, collectivity, and caring and sharing, among others, are crucial in bringing about a more just, equitable and sustainable world.
- We hope that Rio +20 will be an opportunity for Indigenous Peoples to express our own holistic concepts of development in the context of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and taking into account equity, human rights and the traditional principles of knowledge and the concept of welfare defined by Indigenous Peoples themselves.

### **Green economy**

- Indigenous peoples notes that a sustainable low-carbon, equitable economy is not a new concept; this is the basis of indigenous peoples' survival for millennia. IPs needs to assert its own approach to sustainability without excessive GHG emissions or further environmental degradation;
- Indigenous peoples are historic and contemporary stewards of biodiversity – any attempt to achieve a Green Economy must also include attention to empowering local stewards and indigenous institutions;
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge is a valuable resource of indigenous peoples. The GEI fails to take account of how important knowledge of biodiversity is when promoting a Green Economy, improving governance and equity, and empowering the rural poor. Greater attention to collective, community-based intellectual property rights, and the application of TEK in conservation and land management would directly address all of the primary goals of the GEI;
- Sufficient safeguards should be put in place so as to ensure that the rights of indigenous peoples are protected during the formulation and implementation of the green economy agenda, in accordance with the UN Declaration on the Rights of

Indigenous Peoples including rights to land and resources, and free, prior and informed consent.

- Local, diverse economies are the cornerstone of green economies which promote sustainable local livelihoods, community solidarity and ecosystems resilience. For most part of human history and development, these local economies have provided multiple values even in the light of present multiple crises.

## **Zero Draft**

### **Recognition of culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development**

- Rio + 20 must embrace a 4<sup>th</sup> pillar of sustainable development – the ethical and moral values needed to nurture and care for the Earth. This cultural pillar encompasses the cultural and spiritual traditions of humanity, renewed in the light of 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges. Culture underpins the other three pillars of sustainable development and its importance is acknowledged in Paragraph 16 of the Zero Draft. This paragraph must be strengthened and brought forward and placed after Paragraph 5, to become part of our vision of sustainable development.

### **Recognition of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a standard in the implementation of sustainable development at all levels.**

- We welcome the inclusion of Paragraph 21 in the Zero Draft. The human-rights based approach to sustainable development should be affirmed and integrated in the outcome document of Rio + 20.

### **Safeguard the lands, territories and resources, and associated customary management and sustainable use systems of Indigenous Peoples, small producers and local communities as essential contributions to sustainable development.**

### **Indigenous and traditional knowledge are distinct and special contributions to 21st century learning and action.**

- Reference in the Zero draft to learning and knowledge-sharing platforms must embrace indigenous and local knowledge, and diverse knowledge systems. They are equally important as science for the purposes of assessment processes, monitoring and defining indicators for sustainable development.

### **On Emerging Issues:**

- Should promote sustainable use and management of forest and biodiversity, their own market approaches and indigenous knowledge systems, instead of pushing for too market-oriented/focused on market instruments
- Should strengthen and ensure ABS with the active participation of ILCs, and ensure fairness and equity in sustainable use
- Support the practices of ILCs in biodiversity management and sustainable use, and address the drivers of biodiversity erosion such as plantation, biofuel and GMOs among others
- Rio+20 should protect and advance the rights of people instead of promoting market instruments

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