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**Contributions to the Integration Segment ECOSOC (2-4 May 2016)
by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has been actively engaged in discussions on the Millennium Development Goals and since 2012, the post-2015 Agenda later known as the 2030 Agenda. Since the first meeting in 2002, the Forum has made several recommendations on how to include indigenous peoples' priorities in the global agendas, but also on how indigenous peoples can contribute towards innovative, integrated and human rights-based understandings of sustainable development. We regard the 2030 Agenda as a step forward and welcome its grounding in human rights, its ambition to address inequality and leaving no one behind. In particular, we welcome its reference to indigenous peoples' priorities, such as inclusive education, increased agricultural output of small-scale food producers and the indicators to measure secure land rights by type of tenure. At the same time, we note with concern that many of indigenous peoples' priorities and rights such as the requirement for free, prior and informed consent, indigenous peoples' self-determination and development with culture and identity are not strongly reflected in the 2030 Agenda. Further, there are goals and targets which can even have potential adverse effects on indigenous peoples' rights such as the goal on economic growth.

Last year, the Forum's 14th Session report therefore included 4 recommendations related to the 2030 Agenda, calling for indigenous peoples' priorities to be included in the 2030 Agenda, for the participation of indigenous peoples in the negotiations and implementation of the Agenda and for the development and integration of key indicators on indigenous issues in global and national level statistics (paragraph 9, 10, 11, 31 and 40). The 14th session's recommendations follow-up to the commitments made in the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples' Outcome Document (A/RES/69/2), where Member States committed themselves to *giving due consideration to all the rights of indigenous peoples in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda (paragraph 37)*. This was further emphasised in the Third Committee Resolution on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/70/232), which include three paragraphs related to considering indigenous peoples' issues in national and global reviews of the 2030 Agenda, ensuring protection of indigenous peoples' rights when implementing the agenda and finally, inviting the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples to engage in the 2030 Agenda.

For the discussions during the Integration Segment of ECOSOC (2-4 May), some of our current work and experiences related to policy innovation and integration in light of the 2030 Agenda are as outlined below:

Promoting a Human Rights-based approach to implementation of the 2030 Agenda

- Experiences from implementation of the Millennium Development Goals show the importance of implementing the 2030 Agenda framework with respect to *human rights and cultural diversity*, especially United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), ILO Convention No. 169 (Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention) and the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Outcome Document (2014). During the many statements we hear from indigenous peoples across the globe, it is clear that some goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, such as Goal 7 on ensuring energy for all, could pose risks for the rights of indigenous peoples. This relates particularly to their rights to lands, territories and resources, which in numerous situations has come under threat owing to major development projects. It does also relate to indigenous peoples' right to self-determination and to maintaining their own cultures, languages and identities. Hence, it becomes crucial that implementation of the 2030 Agenda happens with strong respect of human rights and principles of equality, participation, transparency and accountability. Implementation of policies in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples result in reduction of conflicts,



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improved and effective engagement, cooperation and partnerships with stakeholders, among others. We have seen several good practices emerge in this regard, including work done by the United Nations Development Group (human rights working group), OHCHR, National Human Rights Institutions and increasing number of UN agencies. Several tools have been developed such as a human-rights based approach to data (OHCHR), an online human-rights guide to the SDGs (Danish Institute of Human Rights) and UNDG toolkits on human rights.

SWAP, National action plans and consultation and participation mechanisms with indigenous peoples

- Following the recommendations of the 2014 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, also known as the World Conference on Indigenous Issues, we have seen progress in policy integration on indigenous issues. Within the UN, the system-wide action plan has been developed to ensure a coherent approach to indigenous issues (2015). Stronger and sustained cooperation, collaboration and partnerships between and amongst indigenous peoples and UN agencies, funds and programmes in addressing the priorities of indigenous peoples in the Agenda 2030 shall be given due consideration.
- At national level, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has had increased focus at *national action plans* as a policy tool to bring together government and indigenous representatives to facilitate the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Good examples emerging from for instance El Salvador show how the national action plans have encouraged action across line-ministries and facilitate a consultation and prioritization process amongst indigenous peoples. These tools can also be relevant for implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Of central relevance in this process is the respect for free, prior and informed consent and inclusion of consultation, participation and representation mechanisms to ensure that indigenous peoples are heard, as reflected in article 19 of the UN Declaration (stating “*States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them*”).

Community-based indicators and data on indigenous peoples’ issues

- Disaggregated and relevant data is essential to capture progress for indigenous peoples in the implementation of Agenda 2030. Leaving no one behind means further attention and methodological development of the disaggregation chapeau in the global indicator list and the principle of self-identification. A first step is the inclusion of an indigenous identifier in national censuses and surveys to be able to identify progress for this group. Good examples from ECLAC show how methodologies and data quality improved in Latin America and hence, became better at capturing the situation for indigenous peoples. Moreover, in recent years, the Permanent Forum has seen many promising practices of community-led monitoring of policies where indigenous peoples take lead in documenting progress and their perceptions of progress. In implementing the 2030 Agenda and the suggested global indicator list, as approved by the Statistical Commission on 11 March, it becomes important that national statistical offices acknowledge the contribution of such community-led initiatives, cooperate with them and integrate their data in to official national reports. UNDESA, Division of Social Policy and Development, in October 2015 facilitated an Expert Group Meeting on the Way Forward for Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda, identifying several good practices on indigenous-led statistics relevant for implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



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Traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples can bring innovation to 2030 Agenda

- Indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge about nature, medicine, climate, social cohesion etc. has contributed to sustainable development in centuries. The importance of this knowledge for sustainable development today has been recognised in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda discussions. One of the 10 members in the expert group of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (appointed by the Secretary-General) is an indigenous representative, Myrna Cunningham. The Permanent Forum also has a special focus on indigenous knowledge, cultures and languages. This year we facilitated an expert group meeting with UNDESA, Division of Social Policy and Development, to learn about indigenous peoples' practices to promote their languages and cultures such as through language nests, Whatsapp/google in local languages and karaoke. A conclusion emerging from the meeting report is the importance of revitalization initiatives being owned and led by indigenous peoples themselves, of course backed by Governments' support.

Follow-up and Review:

- Indigenous peoples are explicitly included in the follow-up and review process of the Agenda 2030 (paragraph 79). It is thereby vital to ensure the effective participation of indigenous peoples in processes and mechanisms relating to follow-up and review from the local, national, regional and global levels. It also involves the effective and meaningful participation of indigenous peoples in the development of national and local action plans, monitoring, data gathering (quantitative and qualitative), reporting preparation and formulation of recommendations. This also requires support for capacity building support to indigenous peoples including technical and logistics support for their effective participation. At the global level, the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) shall ensure the representation and participation of the UNPFII as well as the Indigenous Peoples Major Group.