

**Draft annotated outline for the Report of the Secretary-General
for the 2013 Annual Ministerial Review of UN ECOSOC
with contribution from the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

I. Introduction

II. The nexus between science, technology and innovation (STI), and culture, the MDGs and sustainable development

NO CONTRIBUTION

A. Science base, technology, innovation and capacity building for sustainable development

- a. Science-policy-society interface
- b. STI education
- c. Research, monitoring and observations
- d. Science diplomacy
- e. Culture of science
- f. Access, usage and application of technology information
- g. STI policies

NO CONTRIBUTION

B. Culture and the role of the creative sector in supporting sustainable development

NO CONTRIBUTION

C. The changing geography and models of innovation

- a. New players in STI (BRICs, etc.)
- b. Internationalization of R&D and innovation
- c. New models of innovation (open innovation, networked innovation)
- d. Sectoral distinctions (ICTs, green technologies, pharma and medical technologies)

NO CONTRIBUTION

III. Shaping the course of development: the role of STI

NO CONTRIBUTION

A. Filling the MDGs Gap

- a. Mainstreaming STI to support achievement of the MDGs

NO CONTRIBUTION

B. Integrating STI and sustainable development

- a. Integrating STI to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- b. Focus on new and/or priority challenges (clean energy, water technologies, technology for food security, non-communicable diseases)

NO CONTRIBUTION

C. Improving the application of STI for the post-2015 development agenda

NO CONTRIBUTION

- D. Strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration and building partnerships
 - a. Private sector
 - b. Public-private partnerships (especially those supporting transfer of technology and know-how as well as adaption and dissemination of tech)

NO CONTRIBUTION

IV. Shaping the course of development: the potential of culture

- A. Filling the MDGs Gap
 - a. Mainstreaming culture to support the achievement of the MDGs

Indigenous peoples' concept of development embraces a holistic approach which includes their aspirations, respect and protection of their diversity and uniqueness. Indigenous peoples want to be agents of their own development and have the foresight to promote a development paradigm that is self-determining, as set out in Articles 3 and 32 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous peoples' development paradigms could build on collective rights and the ethos of benefit-sharing that affirms their important connection to their lands and territories. It could also promote a strong gender focus, respect for traditional experiences and inclusiveness, and be able to face current challenges. An indigenous paradigm could have a holistic vision that includes economic growth, sustainable development of the environment and affirmation of the social, economic and cultural rights of indigenous peoples.

The current understanding of development, including the one which underpins the current MDGs, often conceives development in strictly economic terms, with focus mainly on GDP growth and the general belief that economic development would also yield development in other spheres of life.

Critiques of purely economic development have led to further elaboration of the concept such as 'human development', 'sustainable development' and 'human-rights based approach to development'. These three approaches are most often applicable to indigenous peoples, frequently in discourse rather than action. For example, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) has repeatedly emphasized the need to incorporate a human rights-based approach to development in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which are to be reached by 2015.¹ Further, there has been some suggestions that in the case of 'sustainable development', there is the added risk of equating indigenous peoples with nature. While there has been a focus on indigenous peoples' development revolving around the issue of land rights, in particular, how to exploit the natural resources, many indigenous peoples argue that their lands and resources should not be reduced to mere economic assets as they also form an important basis for indigenous peoples' social and cultural integrity.²

¹ See desk reviews of national MDGs, Common Country Assessments and UN Development Assistance Frameworks' reports <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfi/en/mdgs.html>

² Ibid

B. Integrating culture and sustainable development

a. Integrating culture to support the Sustainable Development Goals

Indigenous peoples actively participated in negotiations leading to the Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio in June 2012. On that occasion, the “Rio + 20 Indigenous Peoples’ International Declaration on Sustainable Development and Self-Determination”, 19 June, 2012, Rio de Janeiro, was adopted by consensus of over 70 indigenous peoples, nations, organizations and communities from all regions of the world at the *Indigenous Peoples International Conference on Sustainable Development and Self-Determination* from June 17th – 19th 2012. The declaration calls for the recognition of culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development, and specifically it states:

"1. Culture as a fundamental dimension of Sustainable Development

As Indigenous Peoples, our fundamental cultural belief systems and world views based on our sacred relationships to each other and Mother Earth have sustained our peoples through time. We recognize the contributions and participation of our traditional knowledge holders, indigenous women and youth.

Cultures are ways of being and living with nature, underpinning our values, moral and ethical choices and our actions. Indigenous peoples’ abiding survival is supported by our cultures, providing us with social, material, and spiritual strength. We believe that all societies must foster cultures of sustainability, and that Rio +20 should highlight culture as the most fundamental dimension of sustainable development.”

In addition, references in the Rio+20 outcome document to a “green economy” (A/RES/66/288, Section III) would be better placed to use the term “green economies” or “green societies” in order to benefit from diverse economies that are the basis of indigenous communities throughout the world. This would enhance the welfare of indigenous peoples and their communities “by recognizing and supporting their identity, cultures and interests, and avoid endangering their cultural heritage, practices and traditional knowledge, preserving and respecting non-market approaches that contribute to the eradication of poverty” (A/RES/66/288, para. 58 (j)). For example, the lack of economic statistics on indigenous peoples is related to a fundamental lack of recognition of their informal economy in many countries. Due to inadequate reporting the contribution of indigenous economies to development is often not recognised (UN doc. E/C.19/2004/2). Subsequently, indigenous economies are not valued but rather their livelihoods are side-lined or often threatened in the development process. This has been the experience of indigenous peoples especially where national development strategies are closely tied to private sector investments in natural resources and extractive industries. Such conflicts are also related to the inadequate recognition of the cultural importance of the lands and territories that are inhabited by indigenous peoples.

In the development of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), therefore, culture should be placed as the fourth pillar of sustainable development. This would assist in securing the implementation of a human rights-based approach to development that is inclusive of cultural rights.

- b. Public-private partnerships (especially those supporting transfer of technology and know-how as well as adaption and dissemination of tech)

C. Incorporating culture into the post-2015 development agenda

Indigenous peoples are increasingly turning their attention to the need to participate in the policy dialogue on development issues. They have questioned the logic of development particularly in large infrastructure projects on their lands, such as extractive industries, highways or dams, that have in many cases, not only generated poverty and severe inequality but also fueled other social problems such as family breakdowns, alcoholism, and suicide among young people. Indigenous peoples' role in development continues to shift beyond natural resource management and preservation issues to addressing development in the context of social sector reform and poverty reduction strategies.

While the objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (A/RES/59/174) point to development frameworks to be more culturally sensitive and relevant for indigenous peoples, the reality is that in many instances, human rights issues do not form the basis of development projects. Indigenous peoples are also challenging International Financial Institutions, UN Agencies and other funding bodies to reconsider their approach in development projects that affect indigenous peoples and their communities. Human rights and development are still seen as separate by many policy-makers and practitioners, although United Nations agencies are now focusing on a concept of 'human rights-based approach to development'. The United Nations Development Group Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues is an example of a new approach to development. It sets out the normative, policy and operational framework for implementing a human rights based and culturally sensitive approach to development.³

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides a strong basis from which indigenous peoples can affirm their rights and define their aspirations in the debates with states and corporations around development with culture and identity. Certainly, Articles 3 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirm their right to self-determination and the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for development.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 169 urges governments to acknowledge indigenous peoples' right of ownership over their traditional lands and the natural resources obtained from their lands so as to protect the economic, political and spiritual interests of indigenous peoples.⁴ Furthermore, the Convention requires governments to recognize indigenous customs and institutions and to introduce legislation that allows indigenous peoples the right to maintain and strengthen their legal, political, economic and social systems.⁵ Both the ILO 169 and the United Nations

³ <http://www.undp.org/partners/cso/indigenous.shtml>

⁴ Article 15 of ILO Convention 169.

⁵ Article 18 of ILO Convention 169.

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples urge states to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples prior to the approval of any development projects.⁶

Existing conceptual frameworks on development often omit the importance of the spiritual aspects of indigenous cultures as well as the importance of the connection to land and resources. The implementation of a human rights-based approach to development which incorporates indigenous views of ‘development with culture and identity’, and which takes into account issues of equality, sustainability and ‘harmony with nature’, should be taken into due consideration in the Post-2015 development agenda.

- D. Strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration and building partnerships
 - a. Private sector
 - b. Public-private partnerships
- V. An enabling environment for transformative change in society towards sustainable development through STI and culture
 - A. National level
 - a. Improved coordination among multiple actors providing technical advice and assistance
 - B. Regional Level
 - a. Regional technology markets
 - b. South-South cooperation, especially on technology transfer
 - C. International level
 - a. Improving measurement of STI, including through WIPO Global Innovation Index

Traditional knowledge is closely interconnected with and inter-dependent on bio-resources, landscapes, cultural and spiritual values and customary laws. As customary law is often considered weaker than formal law, respectful links are needed between the legal structures of different cultures. This would allow the different legal systems to recognize one another without one dominating the other. The traditional knowledge possessed by indigenous women should be even further protected and valued, especially with reference to sustainable development, environmental protection, food production and health.

States, UN system and agencies, should engage in partnerships with indigenous peoples and their organizations. Such partnerships should recognize cultural diversity and culture as a fundamental enabler and driver of sustainable development, and build on the human rights-based approach to development followed by the United Nations, that emphasizes universality, equality, participation and accountability. They should aim at empowering indigenous institutions, while building on indigenous knowledge practices and systems

⁶ Article 30 of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Article 15 of ILO Convention 169.

and strengthening indigenous economies and societies. Such partnerships could increase the capacity of indigenous peoples to engage in local and national planning processes. Indigenous peoples are particularly dependent on biodiversity and ecosystem services and ways need to be found to emphasize that these resources have to be respected, maintained, built up and invested in. In particular, it is urgent to address the need for meaningful inclusion of indigenous peoples in decision-making and public discussions on processes such as the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

VI. Toward coherent policy and action frameworks: the role of the ECOSOC System

The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) is an advisory body to ECOSOC for indigenous issues, of which one of the main work areas is culture, and has the mandate to coordinate the work of agencies on indigenous issues. UNPFII has made several recommendations on the theme of development with culture and identity, which should be taken into consideration for building coherent policies throughout the ECOSOC system. Recommendations include:

- To develop indicators of sustainability and well-being of indigenous peoples;
- To recognize the importance of indigenous peoples' knowledge systems as the basis of initiatives for development with culture and identity in all ongoing international processes, whereby the crucial role and relevance of indigenous knowledge systems in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is recognized and integrated, including and especially in the process for the Post-2015 Development agenda and the elaboration of Sustainable Development Goals;
- To develop, at local, national, regional and international levels, a cultural-sensitive approach to the development of public social policies and provision of social services, especially in the areas of education and health.
- To implement the principle of free, prior and informed consent, in all development projects undertaken by states and/or by corporation and industries which affect the lives of the indigenous peoples.

VII. Recommendations