

## **Statement of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group during the session of the Financing for Development Process**

**January 29, 2015, not delivered**

Dear co-chairs, representatives of member states and civil society,

I thank you for the opportunity to make an intervention on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group. As representatives of the IPMG we are advocating for the over 370 million Indigenous Peoples worldwide. Although Indigenous Peoples constitute 5% of the world's population, we are among the 15% of the world's poorest. At the same time, indigenous peoples lands span over 24% of the earth's land surface and are a home to 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity. Therefore issues of financing for development are of prime importance to us from the point of eradication of poverty, access to basic services as well as protecting lands and territories and the world's biodiversity from the aggressive industrial development, especially in light of the increased emphasis on private sector as a way to finance development.

At the outset, we would like to support Brazil's statement that the process of FfD should be first and foremost people-centered not business centered. To add we would like to underline that the process should be underpinned by the human rights-based approach, which we think the elements paper fails to give adequate recognition.

We support the CSO response to the FfD elements paper presented to member states yesterday and specifically the statement that it is imperative to re-claim the term “partnerships” in its original meaning and do not allow it to be utilized only to mean partnerships of the government with the private sector. The term should be fully recognized to include governments, civil society organizations, trade unions, parliaments, local authorities, indigenous peoples, the private sector and others.

We do welcome partnerships with the private sector. However, there are numerous cases that encourage us to scrutinize PPPs as unsustainable business practices surface up throughout the world. These are some most damaging and devastating resource extraction and large infrastructure development projects that have irreversible impacts on indigenous peoples' lands and their biological and cultural diversity. It is of utmost significance to undertake protection measures and safeguards and have a screening mechanism for any type of a public private partnership. In particular, the Free Prior and Informed Consent of affected indigenous peoples should be implemented with due diligence before any project can go ahead under the PPPs.

PPPs should also adhere to strict measures and enforcement on the right to information, transparency and accountability of both the government and the private sector. Contracts should be made public for scrutiny and monitoring, and there should be clear terms of sanctions to the private sector in terms of its obligations to adverse environmental and social consequences in the implementation of projects. Therefore, we support the the EU's statement yesterday on adopting the “polluter pays principle” that would enforce the private sector to pay for the cost of externalities and bear a significant degree of responsibility for their products and projects. Partnerships with ethical investments funds that have clear policies and demonstrated record on their adherence to human rights standards, environment and social protection as well as on transparency and accountability should be given a priority.

Finally, we urge the UN and governments to pay closer attention to emerging trends. For example,

there is a need for support and enabling environment for partnerships between the private sector and civil society under social impact financing and entrepreneurship, which was mentioned by the UK. The number of funds engaged in social impact investing grew quickly over a five-year period and estimated to grow from around US\$50 billion to US\$500 billion in assets within the subsequent decade. Examples include many investments in microfinance, community development finance, and clean technology. The core of the social impact finance is the so called triple bottom line - Profit, People, Planet which perfectly fits the three pillars of SD: economic, social and environmental. It should be noted that such projects should also lead to building the social cohesion of communities, equitable sharing of benefits, increasing the capacities of marginalized sectors and indigenous peoples and promoting their overall wellbeing and dignity. Thus, it is important for the UN and member states to support this newly emerging field of cooperation and find opportunities for matching contributions that would concretely contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you.

*Statement prepared by Galina Angarova, Tebtebba Foundation, Indigenous Peoples Major Group*