1. Introduction

There are 370 million indigenous peoples living in more than 90 countries.

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, an ECOSOC advisory body with the mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights, has analyzed the Millennium Development Goals, especially during its fourth (2005) and fifth (2006) sessions.

The Permanent Forum, in following up on its mandate, and taking into consideration that the MDGs did not include any references to indigenous peoples, is engaged in securing the rights and perspectives of indigenous peoples are fully included in the current process to define a new set of sustainable development goals.

The 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (hereinafter the UN Declaration), founded on the principle of equity, justice and non-discrimination, provides the normative basis for this initiative. The UN Declaration recognizes that respect for indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices, contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment.

2. The MDGs and Indigenous Peoples: Lessons Learned

The Millennium Development Goals have devoted a disparate level of attention to indigenous peoples that we can learn from in moving forward towards a more inclusive development agenda:

(i) The current set of MDGs have not taken full account of the specificities of indigenous peoples;
(ii) Indicators on progress fail to capture the priorities for development and well-being of indigenous peoples; and
(iii) Indigenous peoples have been generally excluded from the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the MDGs.

We can address the gaps of the MDGs. With the ongoing process to define a new development agenda, there are expectations that the sustainable development goals (SDGs) will build on the experiences and lessons learned of the MDGs and promote positive synergies between economic and social development and environmental sustainability, while at the same time addressing the cultural aspects of development.

The SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda offer us a unique opportunity to adopt a new partnership approach to development – built on the rights-based approach - between the United Nations and other stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and their organizations and other representative bodies.
3. Priority areas for indigenous peoples in the Post-2015:

Drawing from indigenous voices at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, especially at its fourth and fifth session, from the e-discussion on "Indigenous Peoples and Inequality" co-moderated by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum and UNICEF from 27 November to 19 December 2012, as well as from other e-discussions and consultations on the Post 2015, and finally from the consultation entitled “Realizing the future we want in Latin America and the Caribbean; Towards a Post-2015 Development Agenda” held in Guadalajara – Mexico, 17 - 20 April 2013, the following key messages emerge:

1. EQUITY: A human rights-based approach to development should be implemented, taking into account issues of equity and sustainability, and endorsing the fundamental concept of development with culture and identity. Principles of participation, accountability, non-discrimination, equity and linkages to international legal standards including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, should guide policies and actions in this regard.

2. GOOD GOVERNANCE: Indigenous peoples’ forms of autonomy and self-governance should be recognized, together with their right to participate in decision-making processes of governance and policy at local, national, regional and international levels.

3. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT: Indigenous peoples’ collective rights, in particular the right to land, territories and natural resources, should be recognized, protected and strengthened including through the application of free, prior and informed consent in all matters affecting them.

4. THE PROCESS TOWARDS THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: Indigenous peoples need to be part of this process, and have their perspectives and views taken into account. More concerted and targeted efforts need to be made to reach out and engage with indigenous peoples to ensure their rights and priorities are included in all processes of the post-2015 development agenda and defining of sustainable development goals.

5. INDICATORS AND DATA: Revised indicators of poverty that capture the specific perceptions and views of poverty and well-being of indigenous peoples, and collection of disaggregated data are both necessary in order to achieve an accurate understanding of poverty and well-being from the indigenous perspective. This would help, in turn, in formulating targeted policies and programmes for the development agenda beyond 2015.

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1 E/2005/43 and E/2006/43
2 Available at [http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/284745](http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/284745)
3 Such as the High-level Leadership Meetings on Addressing Inequalities (in Copenhagen, 18-19 February) (for more information see [http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/312416](http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/312416)) and on Governance (in South Africa, 28 February - 1 March, for more information see [http://www.worldwewant2015.org/governance](http://www.worldwewant2015.org/governance)).
1. Indigenous Peoples and Development with Culture and Identity

1.1 Recognition of culture as the 4th pillar of sustainable development, and the inclusion of the indigenous view of development with culture and identity

Inequality and poverty for indigenous peoples are driven by structural socio-economic and political factors, such as: forced displacements; degradation of (indigenous) lands, territories and natural resources; the impacts of globalization and climate change; cultural discrimination; poor access to education, healthcare, employment and social services; decline of socio-political structures, due to poverty, geographical remoteness, or cultural factors such as languages, compounded by discrimination, racism and lack of cultural understanding and sensitivity. Finally, the lack of recognition of both individual and collective rights, such as indigenous peoples’ collective ownership over their land, territories and natural resources, compounds inequalities and poverty.

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples highlights indigenous peoples’ rights to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their rights to development (article 23).
Indigenous peoples’ recommendations for the Post-2015 in the area of INEQUALITIES AND POVERTY are:

- When looking at the differential progress in economic and social development being made by indigenous and non-indigenous population, there is a need to assess the impact of historic injustice, including colonization, dispossession of land, territories and resources, oppression and discrimination.

- International and national recognition of indigenous peoples’ rights, both individual and collective, especially in national legal and policy frameworks, is fundamental for the advancement of social and economic development.

- The collection of disaggregated data by gender, age, ethnic identity and other factors, e.g. disability, is necessary in order to gain an accurate understanding of indigenous peoples’ poverty, to qualify policies, and to develop appropriate programmes and monitor impact on all members of indigenous communities.

- The elaboration of appropriate indicators should be a key priority for Governments and the UN System, In addition, the development of special censuses for indigenous peoples should be considered.

- The global market economy and State structures should recognize and capture the value and importance of indigenous peoples’ traditional economic activities and systems of collective ownership, which often times are part of the informal economy.

1.2 Enactment of intercultural and cultural-sensitive policies at the national level, especially in the areas of education and health

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes, in article 14, indigenous peoples’ right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions, providing education in their own languages. Article 24 affirms indigenous peoples’ right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices.

The right to health, to education and to cultural identity have to be understood as an economic and social, as well as human rights’ issue. Indigenous peoples’ right to health and education can only be realized when their social, political and economic determinants are tackled. In addition, they are necessary preconditions for indigenous peoples to pursue their collective development and are at the core of their right to life, dignity and well-being.

.. We stress the need for ensuring equal access to education for persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, local communities, ethnic minorities and people living in rural areas. *(The Future We Want, A/RES/66/288, para. 229)*

Indigenous peoples’ recommendations for the Post-2015 in the area of HEALTH are:
- A holistic, intercultural and human rights-based approach to health and public health policies should be adopted at local, national and international level.

- Health services should be informed by the indigenous understanding of health, which extends beyond the physical and mental well-being of an individual to the spiritual balance and well-being of the community as a whole.

- The structural barriers to access to health care for indigenous peoples should be addressed through the transformation of economic and political structures.

- Inter-cultural healthcare services, including in sexual and reproductive health, with the use of indigenous languages in health centres, the introduction of mobile clinics to reach remote communities, the participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making processes about health, should be further implemented.

- The reduction of the exposure to risk factors – such as unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, alcohol and tobacco consumption – through education, health promotion campaigns, as well as the opportunity to expand the presence of indigenous peoples within the health workforce and to integrate traditional knowledge, medicines and practices into the broader health systems, should be pursued.

Indigenous peoples’ recommendations for the Post-2015 in the area of EDUCATION are:

- Public policies for the full and effective implementation of an intercultural and multi-lingual approach to education should be put in place at national and local level.

- Access to quality education should be guaranteed to indigenous peoples at all levels, with the inclusion of indigenous peoples’ traditional knowledge in school curricula.

- Indigenous languages should be recognized officially and the right to be educated in indigenous languages should be put into practice. Educational policies should affirm and protect language and cultural diversity.

- Indigenous educational institutions, especially indigenous universities, are key to debates on intercultural indigenous education. Teachers and professors should be trained in order to favour dialogue between indigenous knowledge and other knowledge systems.

Indigenous peoples’ recommendations for the Post-2015 in the area of FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY are:

- States should take positive actions to facilitate the capacity of indigenous peoples to strengthen traditional food systems, such as formally recognizing and demarcating indigenous territories.

- States should engage in an inclusive and participatory process to ensure food sovereignty and security, in accordance with the principles of free, prior and informed consent.
The promotion of partnerships among indigenous and non-indigenous organizations and other stakeholders is an essential means to strengthen mutual understanding and support for the promotion and defense of policies protecting indigenous peoples’ traditional foods.

1.3 Prioritization of the special conditions and needs of indigenous women, children, youth and indigenous persons with disabilities

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples underlines, in article 22, that particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of the Declaration.

We commit to creating an enabling environment for improving the situation of women and girls everywhere, particularly in rural areas and local communities and among indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities.
(The Future We Want, A/RES/66/288, para.238)

Systemic poverty exacerbates inequality, especially for indigenous women, children and youth and persons with disabilities who are particularly affected by the lack of access to health services, housing, and other services. Non-sustainable development, extractive industries’ practices, policies originating from colonial and patriarchal systems and doctrines, which include, among others, environmental, sexual and physical violence, have particularly negative impacts on indigenous women, children, youth and persons with disabilities. Additionally, indigenous women suffer from triple discrimination - discrimination as women, for being indigenous women, and for being the face of poverty.

We reiterate the importance of empowering rural women as critical agents for enhancing agricultural and rural development and food security and nutrition. We also recognize the importance of traditional sustainable agricultural practices, including traditional seed supply systems, including for many indigenous peoples and local communities.
(The Future We Want, A/RES/66/288, para. 109)

Indigenous peoples’ recommendations for the Post-2015 in the area of INDIGENOUS WOMEN, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES are:

- Indigenous women and youth should fully and effectively participate as leaders and experts in all levels of governance and decision-making, both at local and national levels, and at international level, including in processes related to the Post-2015 development agenda.

- Further attention should be focused on indigenous peoples with disabilities, whose living conditions have not been adequately studied and addressed in many countries.

- States, UN agencies and indigenous peoples’ internal processes must respect the traditional knowledge of indigenous women regarding sustainable development, environmental protection, cultural practices, food production and health.
- Data must be disaggregated along the major fault lines of inequity, including ethnicity, and must capture the realities and specific conditions of indigenous women, children, youth and persons with disabilities.

- Issues of racism should be part of the political debate on indigenous peoples, in order to eliminate the barriers and to broaden access to opportunities for greater and more meaningful participation by indigenous peoples in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres of society.

**Indigenous peoples’ recommendations for the Post-2015 in the area of GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT are:**

- Traditional occupations and livelihoods share the same challenges in relation to sustainable development, which should be addressed by measures of: ensuring territorial security; legal recognition of ownership and control over customary land and resources; and the sustainable utilization of lands and other renewable resources.

- States have a duty to address indigenous peoples’ unemployment. Positive measures should be adopted in employment generation, especially for indigenous women.

- Indigenous peoples should not be subjected to any discrimination in access or admission to employment, medical and social assistance, terms and conditions of employment or labour.

- Indigenous peoples should not be subjected to coercive forms of recruitment including bonded or forced labour.

- Indigenous peoples should receive vocational training of general application but also special training programmes that are based on indigenous peoples’ economic environment, social and cultural conditions and practical needs, as such training is more likely to promote their equal opportunities.

**2. Indigenous Peoples and Good Governance**

**2.1 Recognition of indigenous peoples at national and international levels**

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - articles 2, 3, 4 and 5 - affirms indigenous peoples’ right to be free from any kind of discrimination and the right to self-determination, which embodies the right to determine their own economic, social and cultural development. Self-determination implies the right to maintain forms of autonomy and self-governance, in parallel with the right to participate in the democratic process of governance and decision-making at both national and international level.

**Indigenous peoples’ recommendations for the Post-2015 in the area of RECOGNITION and PARTICIPATION are:**

- Governments should engage indigenous peoples in policy and decision-making processes, and should promote transparency and
accountability in the management of public affairs and the equitable redistribution of resources and wealth within national societies.

- Meaningful participation of indigenous peoples should be implemented in all political, juridical, economic, social and cultural decisions that affect them. Issues related to trafficking (human and substances), violence and corruption which affect indigenous peoples and the governance of their territories, with effects also on migration patterns and traditional lifestyles, should be addressed in the post-2015 agenda.

- Participation should take place via the recognition of indigenous institutions, systems and organizations, through adequate funding, and with the involvement of indigenous women.

- It is necessary that public spaces can be accessed by the representatives of indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples should consolidate the right to own and control their own media.

2.2 Enactment of the right to free, prior and informed consent in all matters affecting indigenous peoples

A key demand of the indigenous peoples is the implementation of their rights to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as enshrined in the UN Declaration. The right to participate in decision-making processes is a substantive as well as a procedural right based on the right to self-determination.

Sustainable development requires the meaningful involvement and active participation of regional, national and subnational legislatures and judiciaries, and all major groups: women, children and youth, indigenous peoples and [...] we encourage their active participation, as appropriate, in processes that contribute to decision-making, planning and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development at all levels. (The Future We Want, A/RES/66/288, para. 43)

Indigenous peoples’ recommendations for the Post-2015 on FPIC are:

- Indigenous peoples should be consulted, but also be able to express their consent or non-consent over industrial, infrastructural and extractive projects when interacting with the public and private sectors. Indigenous peoples should be included in decision-making and distribution of resources and revenues.

- Corporations should be held accountable for addressing environmental, health and socio-cultural impacts or jurisdictional issues linked to development and infrastructural projects.

- FPIC should be conceived as an ongoing, interactive process, whereby indigenous peoples establish the rules of investment within their territories, and select and invite corporations they want to partner with in developing their land and resources.

- Education about free, prior and informed consent and the development of clear guidelines for implementation and monitoring are of key importance.
3. Indigenous peoples and environmental sustainability

3.1 Recognition of indigenous peoples’ collective rights, in particular the right to land, territories and natural resources

The UN Declaration in articles 25 and 26 affirms the essential importance to recognize indigenous peoples’ collective rights on their lands, territories and natural resources, as exercised in their self-governance institutions, land tenure systems, forms of representations, customary practices and productive activities. Collective land rights and related resource rights constitute the basis of their economic livelihood and are the source of their spiritual, cultural and social identity.

Major violations of these rights instead are occurring, such as land grabbing and unfair competition exercised by States and private investors/companies, exploitation of natural resources by extractive industries, resource-based conflicts, and lack of recognition of customary tenure systems. This impairs indigenous peoples’ rights to access and use forests, ancestral lands and natural resources. It also exposes indigenous peoples to the effects of climate change, disrupts their social unity and exacerbates their situation.

We recognize that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their wider application can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods. We further recognize that indigenous peoples and local communities are often the most directly dependent on biodiversity and ecosystems and thus are often the most immediately affected by their loss and degradation. (The Future We Want, A/RES/66/288, para 197)

Indigenous peoples’ recommendations for the Post-2015 on ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY are:

- States should fully implement and uphold the UN Declaration, including Article 29 on indigenous peoples' right to the protection of their environment and the State obligation to ensure free, prior and informed consent.

- The recognition and protection of indigenous peoples’ collective rights of land ownership and control of natural resources cannot be separated from initiatives aimed at eradicating poverty and at fostering economic and social development.

- Impact assessment regarding extractive industries should implement culturally relevant and gender-based analysis. The right to free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples involved should be respected by all means.

We affirm that green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication should [...] enhance the welfare of indigenous peoples and their communities, other local and traditional communities and ethnic minorities, recognizing and supporting their identity, culture and interests, and avoid endangering their cultural heritage, practices and traditional knowledge, preserving and respecting non-market approaches that contribute...
4. The process towards the Post 2015

4.1 Establishment of partnerships for development issues relating to indigenous peoples

Partnerships can increase the capacity of indigenous peoples to engage in local and national planning processes, including at national level and in regional and global policy advocacy. The full consultation and engagement of indigenous peoples, as enshrined in the UN Declaration is the foundation of such a partnership.

**Indigenous peoples’ recommendations for the Post-2015 in the area of PARTNERSHIPS are:**

- Member states and the UN system should engage in partnerships with indigenous peoples to ensure their effective participation in the post 2015 development process, including in the elaboration of the sustainable development goals.

- Such partnerships should recognize cultural diversity and culture as a fundamental enabler and driver of sustainable development, and build on the UN human rights-based approach to development, that emphasizes universality, equality, participation and accountability. It should also aim to empower indigenous peoples’ institutions, while building on indigenous knowledge practices and systems and strengthening indigenous peoples’ economies and societies.

- Partnerships at the international and national levels should make every effort to provide adequate funding, technical and institutional support and training.

- At the local and national levels, there is a need to strengthen the institutionalized mechanisms for consultation and participation of indigenous peoples, building on the fundamental principles of free, prior and informed consent and full participation in the development process. The role of the United Nations Country Teams in that respect is crucial.

- The establishment of collaborative and multi-sector partnerships between governments, the civil society and indigenous peoples’ organization, would be an enabler to drive action at all levels.