

***Intervention of Indigenous Peoples Major Group – 13<sup>th</sup> May  
2010***

***On the High level Segment; Implementation Challenges and  
opportunities for the themes of current circle.***

Thank you Mr Chairman,

Indigenous Peoples hope that after all what we have heard and recommended in this review cycle of CSD 18, can be taken up by you as Governments, donor community, UN agencies, and other partners working among Indigenous Peoples, in different parts of the world. The respect for human rights and aspiration for social justice is an essential pillar of our shared and striving vision for sustainable development.

Despite the fact that we have many success stories and activities by indigenous communities they are never recognized. It is for this reason that we believe a human right and holistic approach maybe one of the key step for all. Let me now take two minutes to give you some of the recommendations, which we think will be the way forward;

1. We must all collectively identifying what the real problems are and check out on how these can be

addressed. Majority of the UN member-states have obligations under International Human Rights Law and under Multilateral Environmental Agreements which they should meet, and compliance with these obligations is one of the steps in addressing issues of human rights violations and adverse environmental and social impacts of mining, within the framework of CSD, we cannot turn a blind eye.

2. The effective involvement and greater participation of all stakeholders and rights holders in all processes and mechanisms should be further enhanced, including transparency in local governance and corporate social responsibility and accountability.
3. Governments, mining corporations, as well as investors should respect existing international standards; and specifically ask corporations and investors to endorse the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the ILO 169 to work with indigenous peoples to elaborate operational guidelines on how to apply these agreed instruments in their operations..
4. Clean water is a precious and increasingly scarce resource yet it is used in vast quantities in mining even in semi arid and arid regions. Mining in these regions and seasonally dry areas has always posed severe problems. Mining is a massive user of water. States, corporations and society at

large should work to maximize reuse, recycling and substitution of metals and minerals.

5. Governments and donors should focus on research as key to ensure that comprehensive data is available especially in Africa and Asia where there is no clear data on the existence of Indigenous peoples this will then support the work on sustainable development.
6. Capacity Building should be a continuous process in order to update indigenous and local communities in all the five thematic areas. Policy formulation on the five themes we have discussed here should be participatory. Awareness, sensitization and education is important for communities and should be a priority.
7. Training on technology and management of mining chemical and sound waste management should be inclusive for all. Governments should ensure that recycling techniques are domesticated and disseminated to all to ensure a sustainable management.
8. Mr chairman we have not heard any figures mentioned here, and therefore we do recommend that the donors and financial institutions should increase funding and ensure

that the activities they fund actually reach and impacts on the communities at the local levels.

Thank you Mr chairman.