

**Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**  
**Input to HLPF 2024 session**

**Three examples of specific actions, policies and measures that are most urgently needed to effectively deliver sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions to eradicate poverty and reinforce the 2030 Agenda, building on interlinkages and transformative pathways for achieving the SDGs.**

Achieving the SDGs requires the full and effective participation of all stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples, who are among the most marginalized and vulnerable groups in the world.

Indigenous Peoples have a vital role to play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as they possess valuable knowledge, practices and innovations that can contribute to sustainable, resilient, and inclusive solutions. However, they also face multiple and intersecting challenges, such as discrimination, land dispossession, environmental degradation, human rights violations, and lack of access to basic services. Therefore, it is imperative to address the specific needs and aspirations of Indigenous Peoples, and to ensure their rights, voices and perspectives are respected and integrated in the 2030 Agenda.

Based on the recommendations of the 22nd session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), held in April 2023, the following are three examples of specific actions, policies and measures that are most urgently needed to effectively deliver sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions to eradicate poverty and reinforce the 2030 Agenda, building on interlinkages and transformative pathways for achieving the SDGs:

- **Strengthening the legal and institutional frameworks for the recognition and protection of Indigenous Peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources.** Land is the basis of Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods, cultures, identities and spiritualities. However, Indigenous Peoples often face threats and conflicts over their lands, territories and resources, due to extractive industries, infrastructure projects, agribusiness, conservation initiatives and climate change mitigation measures, among others. These activities not only undermine Indigenous Peoples' rights, but also jeopardize the environmental and social benefits that their lands provide, such as biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, food security and disaster risk reduction. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that Indigenous Peoples have secure and effective access, control and management over their lands, territories and resources, in accordance with their customary laws and practices, and in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and other relevant international instruments. This would enable Indigenous Peoples to maintain and enhance their traditional and sustainable land use systems, and to exercise their self-determination and autonomy. Furthermore, it would also contribute to the achievement of SDGs 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).
- **Promoting the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda and its related processes.** Indigenous Peoples have the right to participate in decision-making processes that affect them, as enshrined in the UNDRIP and other international human rights standards. However, Indigenous Peoples often face barriers and challenges in accessing and influencing the 2030 Agenda and its related processes, such as the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), the Global Sustainable

Development Report (GSDR) and the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development. and other key global events such as the World Water Conference (2023), Summit of the Future (2024). These processes often lack adequate mechanisms and spaces for the meaningful and inclusive engagement of Indigenous Peoples and their organizations, and do not adequately reflect or address their specific situations, needs and priorities. Therefore, it is crucial to ensure that Indigenous Peoples are consulted and involved in all stages and levels of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its related processes, and that their views and recommendations are taken into account and integrated in the outcomes and follow-up actions. This would enhance the ownership, legitimacy and effectiveness of the 2030 Agenda, and ensure that no one is left behind. Moreover, it would also support the realization of a number of cross cutting goals including SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

- **Supporting the development and implementation of Indigenous Peoples’ own plans, initiatives, and solutions for sustainable development.** Indigenous Peoples have their own visions, aspirations, and approaches for sustainable development, which are based on their cultures, values, cosmovision and worldviews. Indigenous Peoples have also developed and implemented various plans, initiatives, and solutions for sustainable development, such as Indigenous Peoples’ development plans, Indigenous Peoples conservation areas, Indigenous women’s empowerment programs, Indigenous youth networks, Indigenous knowledge systems, Indigenous languages and cultural expressions, among others. These plans, initiatives and solutions not only address the specific needs and challenges of Indigenous Peoples, but also offer innovative and alternative ways of achieving the SDGs, in harmony with nature and humanity. Therefore, it is important to support the development and implementation of Indigenous Peoples’ own plans, initiatives, and solutions for sustainable development, by providing adequate financial, technical and capacity-building assistance, and by creating enabling environments and platforms for their dissemination and replication. This would empower Indigenous Peoples to lead and contribute to the 2030 Agenda, and to share their knowledge, practices and innovations with the wider society. Furthermore, it would also advance the progress of SDGs 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

#### **Sources:**

1. United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. (2023). Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its twenty-second session (2023) (E/C.19/2023/6). United Nations. [https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4012497/files/E\\_2023\\_43--E\\_C.19\\_2023\\_7-EN.pdf](https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4012497/files/E_2023_43--E_C.19_2023_7-EN.pdf)
2. United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), Twenty-Second Session: 17-28 April 2023, Theme: “Indigenous Peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach”. <https://social.desa.un.org/issues/indigenous-peoples/unpfii/unpfii-twenty-second-session-17-28-april-2023>