Discussion on Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies
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As the 2030 Agenda recognizes, there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. Without peace, justice and inclusion, none of the SDGs can be delivered in full. Its therefore that sustainable development is dependent upon peace, stability, human rights, as well as effective governance and the rule of law.

 The Indigenous Peoples Major Group have been following up implementation of the SDGs and particularly the effect of SDG 16 on attainment of all the other sustainable development goals.

We have noted with serious concern the implementation of SDG 16 and how failure of its implementation affects attainment of other goals for vulnerable communities.

Different countries took advantage of SDG by implementation the national development strategies. Most country have adopted a **"Whole of Society"** approach for implementation and attainment of the SDGs with one-size fits all strategy. These have resulted in the failure of the strategy of leaving no one behind. In implementation of such strategy most indigenous peoples found themselves left behind.

We have noted absence of baseline data and/or limited data for some of the indicators that impacted on the monitoring of their progress (SDG 16) and thus poses a challenge in tracking progress, this means that in reporting goal 16 regarding the rights of marginalized indigenous communities is not well captured by the government hence.

Monitoring of SDG16 offers an unprecedented opportunity to drive improvements in governance issues that underpin peaceful, just, and inclusive societies and the attainment of the entire 2030 agenda. Violence and injustice destroy lives and make it inevitable that people and communities will be left behind. This is a situation in many indigenous peoples whose livelihood is dependent on bio diversity available in their territories, which require government practices and engagement that protect both indigenous peoples, and their territories.

We are witnessing patterns of exclusion, and the grievances mechanisms that do not respond to the community needs, undermine indigenous peoples and lead to insecurity and violence and failure to realization of targets and indicators provided in Goal 16.

The Statement **of Goal 16:** which is to Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels seems to be facing a serious challenge

In Target 3: We have noted a decline of adherence to the rule of law and access to justice. Incidents of government acting without following the laws of the countries have increase. There are so many reports of violations of right by state to indigenous peoples through forceful evictions, unlawful prosecutions and disappearances of indigenous peoples.

Lawful instructions establish to deliver justice are not respected by states. Judicial decisions are not respected and implementations. The systems of government do not live up to aspirations and the 2030

Governments are enacting laws that directly touch and affect the common citizens which limit and restrict peoples' freedom and access to information and justice as well. Among them including the Cyber Crimes laws; the Statistics laws ; the Media Services laws; the Access to Information laws; All these have some provisions which limit and deny the public's right to enjoy their fundamental human rights and this is more worse to already marginalized groups when violations of their rights takes place. This have limited even publication of malpractice and collection of data by indigenous peoples on the real situation and status of implementation of the SDGs

Recommendations

- Government should respect the rule of laws and principles of good governance reduce violence and manage disputes peacefully, while actively promoting inclusion and reducing polarization of indigenous peoples and other vulnerable communities
- Increase inclusion and respond to the grievances that undermine security and existence of indigenous peoples and other vulnerable communities.
- Protect human rights and support gender equality, and promote a culture of peace and embrace diversity