



International Indian Treaty Council

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United Nation Member States Agree on New Universal Development Agenda

UN Headquarters, New York, August 11, 2015: On Sunday, August 2nd, after three years of consultations and intense negotiations, 193 Member States of the United Nations reached agreement on an outcome document that will constitute the new UN sustainable development agenda. The final agreement on the document entitled “**Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**”, mentions Indigenous in 6 different places, and was received with a standing ovation by those in attendance. The co-facilitators of this process, Ambassador Macharia Kamau of Kenya and Ambassador David Donoghue of Ireland received cross-sectorial praise for their leadership and persistence. The agreement will be formally adopted by the UN General Assembly at the Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September.

The ambitious “universal and people-centered” agenda features 17 new sustainable development goals that aim to end poverty, promote prosperity and well-being while also protecting the environment by 2030. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the agreement, saying it “encompasses a universal, transformative and integrated agenda that heralds an historic turning point for our world.” The preamble of the 29-page text states, “We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet.” It continues, “We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind.”

The negotiations leading up to the agreement included the unprecedented participation of Major Groups including Indigenous Peoples, Business and Industry, Children and Youth, Farmers, Local Authorities, NGOs, the Scientific & Technological Community, Women, and Workers and Trade Unions.

The Global Organizing Partners for the Indigenous Peoples Major Group, the International Indian Treaty Council and the Tebtebba Foundation, worked throughout the process to build Indigenous Peoples participation and ensure that Indigenous Peoples’ rights and concerns would be included in the final agreement. Galina Angarova, representing the Tebtebba Foundation stated “it was a long and difficult process. The issues of Indigenous Peoples were often pushed aside or simply ignored. I am pleased, however, that in the final weeks of the inter-governmental negotiations, intense lobbying of supportive ‘friendly states’ resulted in significantly raising the visibility of indigenous peoples in the outcome document.”

Indigenous peoples are included in the outcome document in paragraphs 23, 25, 50, and 71, as well in as 2 of the 169 targets (2.3; 4.5). These address key concerns such as empowerment, participation, education, food security and employment, as well as follow-up and review.

“Our work is not over yet,” stated Roberto Múkaró Borrero (Taino), the focal point for the Indigenous Peoples Major Group Global Organizing Partner International Indian Treaty Council. “We now have to turn

our focus to the development of the indicators to monitor these goals and targets, and their implementation at the national level to make sure that this process is consistent with commitments already made by states in the High Level Plenary Session known as the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, among others.”

For the full text of the final agreement:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/7891TRANSFORMING%20OUR%20WORLD.pdf>

Follow this process on the Indigenous Peoples Major Group list serve:

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/indigenous-peoples-major-group>

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The International Indian Treaty Council is an organization of Indigenous Peoples from North, Central, South America, the Arctic, Pacific and Caribbean in General Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

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