

STATEMENT: Item 6 Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council, the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and emerging issues

This statement is delivered on behalf of Tebtebba, Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development and the Asia Indigenous Peoples Network on Extractive Industries and Energy.

In the current tracking of the progress of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the target on universal access to electricity in SDG Goal 7 is progressing fast but this comes with a heavy cost for Indigenous Peoples of whom majority does not have access to energy. Mega- dam projects are again on the rise and aggressively implemented in some countries, plantations for biofuels are increasing, renewable energy projects, and mining of transition and rare earth minerals for clean technologies implemented without FPIC are exacerbating the already dire situation of many indigenous communities. Human rights violations against Indigenous Peoples related to the implementation of these projects continue with impunity.

On this we recommend to the Permanent Forum to conduct a thematic study on the Transition to Renewable Energy and its impacts to Indigenous Peoples and for the Forum to include a dedicated session on the said theme in the 2023 UNPFII session.

In the implementation of the SDGs in general, we put forward the following recommendations:

1. For the Permanent Forum to collaborate and work closely with the Indigenous Peoples Major Group to strengthen Indigenous Peoples engagement and effective participation in the High Level Political Forum and other related SDG events including expert meetings; and
2. For the Forum, in its annual sessions particularly in the discussion of the six mandated areas, to include dedicated discussions in assessing the progress of the implementation of the SDGs in relation to Indigenous Peoples of states and UN agencies, how the Voluntary National Review processes can be further strengthened to ensure the full and effective engagement of Indigenous Peoples in the process, and how Indigenous Peoples through our sustainable ways of life are greatly contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.