



INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL

THE UNITED NATIONS 2030 AGENDA, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

On September 25, 2015 the 193 member States of the United Nations unanimously adopted “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” [A/RES/70/1] containing 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 implementation targets. The SDGs are intended to coordinate and measure global sustainable development efforts through 2030 to ensure that human needs are met, social and economic inequities are addressed, and the natural world is protected for future generations. They officially came into force on January 1, 2016.

The 2030 SDGs are more comprehensive and include issues that were not addressed in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) such as Climate Change, sustainable production and consumption, ecosystem and bio-diversity protection, innovation, and the importance of peace, human rights and justice for all. Unlike the MDG's, the SDG's were developed with involvement of Indigenous Peoples, mainly through the active engagement of the **Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG)**, an Indigenous-led body that facilitates the participation of all 7 socio-cultural regions of Indigenous Peoples in the High Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals.

The SDGs are not considered to be legally binding. However, the countries of the world have agreed to implement them by establishing national frameworks, providing follow-up and reviewing progress through accessible and timely data collection. Annual global reviews on various themes are carried out at the High-Level Political Forum held at UN headquarters in New York each year. Various UN bodies have already begun to utilize the SDGs to frame their own activities in areas such as Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture, Gender Equity, Climate Change and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THE SDGS

The SDGs refer to Indigenous Peoples 6 times, including in the political declaration, Goals 2 on Zero Hunger (target 2.3) and 4 on education (target 4.5). The section on follow up and review that calls for Indigenous Peoples' participation.

In addition, many other SDGs and associated targets reflect concerns consistently presented by Indigenous Peoples. For example, Human Rights principles and standards are reflected in the 2030 Agenda (A/RES/70/1 paragraph 10). Indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1 refer to land rights. Goal 17 emphasizes the importance of Partnerships for implementation.

The Agenda's overall focus on reducing inequalities is particularly relevant for Indigenous Peoples, who continue to be economically disenfranchised in both developed and developing countries. However, **thematic reports, briefing papers and statements** prepared by the IPMG show that Indigenous Peoples remain the furthest behind when it comes to meeting the SDGs.

INDICATORS TO MEASURE SDG IMPLEMENTATION

An SDG global indicator framework was adopted by the General Assembly in 2017 to measure specific progress towards implementation [A/RES/71/313]. Indicators are being developed at the national and regional levels, and countries have committed to include the input of Indigenous Peoples as well as women, youth, farmers and others, in these processes.



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The IPMG developed a [position paper on SDG indicators](#) that outlines the importance of special measures needed for Indigenous Peoples including disaggregated data and indicators to uphold Indigenous Peoples human rights. Indigenous Peoples in several regions are also working on indicators based on their own concerns and cultural perspectives about sustainable development.

Indigenous Peoples were identified in 1992 as one of the 9 Major Groups whose input was essential in global processes for sustainable development. Indigenous Peoples' consistent engagement in these efforts at all levels through the IPMG is vital to ensure that our perspectives, rights and expertise are considered and respected. The Global Coordinators for the IPMG are the International Indian Treaty Council and the Tebtebba Foundation. In 2017, a Global Steering Committee for the IPMG was established with focal points from all 7 regions.



Co-convenors of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group, Joan Carling, Tebtebba, and Janene Yazzie, IITC

For more information or to become involved, connect with the IPMG Website at: [Indigenous Peoples Major Group](#) and join the IPMG Listserve at [Contact Us](#)

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

