

MGoS Statement, GA 78 Reviews of ECOSOC and the HLPF

Presented by Roberto Múkaró Borrero, International Indian Treaty Council, Co-convenor, Indigenous Peoples Major Group; 15 February 2024

Excellencies, Co-Facilitators, on behalf of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism, a group of 21 diverse stakeholder constituencies that are an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, I thank you for this opportunity. To begin, we strongly emphasize the critical importance of stakeholder engagement and participation in ECOSOC related activities, which contribute to better informed decision-making and greater development outcomes.

As we move closer to 2030, increased multi-stakeholder participation and inclusion is needed while implementing substantive procedural changes to strengthen the HLPF. We call on Member States to be more ambitious than ever to ensure effective impact assessments and delivery of the SDGs.

The Summit of the Future (SOTF) raises awareness of the 2030 Agenda, adding new dimensions like the Global Digital Compact. The Summit; however, needs comprehensive outcome processes for follow-up and accountability. Integration into the work of the HLPF, and or the General Assembly through a resolution could be an answer. The Summit can also galvanize strong stakeholder involvement, in areas such as implementation, monitoring and accountability while assisting in bridging the 2030 Agenda to what follows.

In terms of our overall ECOSOC review recommendations:

1. We call for additional support to enable those systematically left behind to join the discussions. This requires investment in terms of direct support for travel but also for greater use of online engagement to bring diverse perspectives on key issues.

2. We believe that stakeholders should be fully engaged in each point of the ECOSOC calendar, including greater online participation such as during the Partnership Forum and the Coordination Segment.

3. We call for a better integrated annual cycle, including clear policy guidance on the implementation of:

- (a) Ministerial Declaration

- (b) Lessons learned from VNRs. On this, a focus on the poorest and on marginalized groups is critical. There should also be a recognition and utilization of citizen generated data to complement official statistics to measure progress especially for marginalized groups.

These recommendations must be linked more directly to implementation by States so that the impact of new policies can be measured.

4. We also call for a stronger focus on the SG report to ECOSOC on lessons learned from VNRs with recommendations for follow-up by countries, segments, and forums of ECOSOC.

In terms of HLPF in particular:

1. We call for strengthened peer learning and sharing of best practices and experiences relating to implementation of 2030 Agenda, on a voluntary basis, building on regional forums, VNRs and expert and other preparatory meetings.

2. We strongly endorse the participation of all stakeholders as established in the 2030 Agenda and highlight that the agenda will only be met if there is a 'whole of society' approach.

Governments should not act in isolation but rather work in partnership with community groups, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples, youth, older persons, local volunteers, community groups, LGBTI, communities discriminated on the

basis of work and descent, local authorities, businesses, trade unions and many other stakeholders.

In closing, many of our organisations provide the practical expertise to deliver the SDGs, the knowledge of local needs and enable finance to reach frontline communities, we must not be left behind. It is only by working in partnership with Major Groups and other stakeholders locally that there will be any chance of reaching those furthest behind.

We propose that the VNRs should include specific review of progress since the previous presentation. Member states should be encouraged to demonstrate how policy changes have led to practical outcomes in each of the goals and targets. On VNR reports, it's not enough that Indigenous Peoples and marginalized groups are just mentioned in the Leaving No One Behind sections of some VNR reports.

We strongly recommend that states adopt mechanisms to be able to generate data on ethnicity, among other issues, and report on specific interventions in relation to realizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and in direct partnership with Indigenous Peoples.

Safe spaces for engagement in the SDG processes at the national and global level needs to be ensured. There should be zero tolerance for reprisals against civil society representatives and Indigenous Peoples speaking in relevant SDG processes on realities on the ground.

Finally, considering the SDG Summit in September 2023, we call for a clear commitment to financing the 2030 Agenda with a strong focus on delivering a specific fund to support those communities who are most often left behind in direct partnership with them. There is also a need to strengthen follow up and accountability.

Thank you.