Sustainable Development Goals and Indigeneity:
A Practical Guide for Indigenous Peoples (Version II)

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)
Chiang Mai, Thailand

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Submitted to:
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Acknowledgement

There are constant debates on SDGs since its inception including its meaning, history as well as its implications in development theory and practice. Amongst them is the persistent lack of direct references to the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in many areas that are closely relevant to their issues. This has resulted in the rights of IPs including collective rights, cultural integrity and Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), as well as their holistic and self-determined development approaches not reflected in the SDGs among others. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that stakeholders from all walks of the societies at the national, regional and international levels including and especially the IPs request their rights and aspirations in all dimensions of sustainable development to be manifested in the agenda aligning with the UNDRIP, 2007 and ILO Convention 169.

The inclusion of IPs and the active engagement and contribution by the IPs in the 2030 SDGs agenda shall promote the recognition and protection of their rights, aspirations, and self-determined sustainable development. Equally, IPs are an indispensable component if SDGs were to be fully achieved.

AIPP has played a significant role in this endeavour of building capacities of the IPs for their effective, meaningful and sustainable engagement in the SDGs processes and mechanisms including research and documentation on SDGs related data for advocacy and awareness-raising among others.

This publication, a collaborative work of AIPP, 13 experts and our IPs, member/partner organizations, supplements the first version of the practical guide on SDGs 2030 with additional resource materials and more practical cases in connection to the IPs, particularly Indigenous Women in a simplified and reader-friendly version.

It thoroughly scrutinizes the 17 goals identifying gaps and providing recommendations from the IP perspective, reviews the levels of IPs' engagements in SDGs incorporating the specific cases of SDGs implementation at the national level and progress of follow up and review (FUR), and provides knowledge and stepwise SDG guidelines for the IPs. It will be translated into national and local languages to facilitate IPs' rights and responsibilities of active and meaningful engagement in and contribution to the SDGs agenda and to ensure that the perspectives and initiatives of IPs be integrated to advance the self-determined sustainable development.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all contributors – AIPP's partner/ member organizations, experts and our IPs who offered their invaluable knowledge - in achieving not only this endeavour but their commitment in the struggles to forward the IPs towards a sustainable future at all times.

I am also grateful for the generous contribution of our donor, VOICE Project for making this publication happen. Special thanks to 13 interviewees from our partner/member organizations without whom the contents of this practical guide would not be so enriching and grounded.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the consultants and my colleagues in the Secretariat who have dedicated their time and expertise that greatly guided and facilitated the completion of this guide.
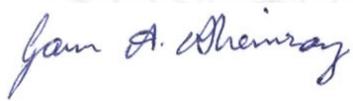
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Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

List of Boxes

Abbreviations

AIPP	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
CBMIS	Community-based Monitoring and Information System
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
EMRIP	Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent
FUR	Follow-up and Review
GoN	Government of Nepal
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
IITC	International Indian Treaty Council
ILO-169	International Labour Organization Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples No. 169
IMPG	Indigenous Peoples Major Group
IP-OPs	Indigenous Peoples – Organizing Partners
IPs	Indigenous Peoples
IW	Indigenous Women
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MGoS	Major Groups and Other Stakeholders
MoI	Means of Implementation
NPC	National Planning Commission
OHCHR	Office of High Commissioners for Human Rights
SD	Sustainable Development

SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UDHR	Universal Declaration on Human Rights
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDRIP	UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNESCAP	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNPFII	UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
UNCSD	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
USD	United States Dollars
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WCED	World Conference on Environment and Development
WCIP	World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

1. Background

This practical guide on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 is aimed for the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Indigenous Women (IW), who are directly interlinked with and involved in the whole process. Indigenous Peoples and their representing organizations have been engaging in the SDGs 2030 since the origination of the concept of sustainable development in collaboration with different actors, alliances, and networks at all levels. In 2017, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) developed the first version of the practical guide for Indigenous Peoples on SDGs 2030 to provide basic and reliable information on it and provide practical guidance for effective engagement and contribution. This second version of the guide supplements the first version of the practical guide on SDGs 2030 with additional resource materials and more practical cases in a simplified and reader-friendly version. This version has emphasized the basic and practical information on the SDGs in connection to Indigenous Peoples, particularly Indigenous Women, and determined to present the reliable information in a simpler form to be understood by them and take necessary steps and actions in the process at the country level and grassroots level. The practical guide has been updated through the integration of Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Women's perspectives in the SDGs based on their experiences and review and analysis of the existing contents.

The guide has been prepared through the consultative process by the involvement of wider groups of experts (including the SDGs experts, Indigenous experts at the national and international levels, Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG), Indigenous Women leaders, Indigenous Women with disability, AIPP programmes, AIPP member and partner organizations, other experts) to refine and simplify the contents, logical flow, and coherence of the contents with appropriate illustrations, tables, figures, graphs in the relevant sections. These experts have been identified based on their continuous engagements and contributions in the agenda 2030 at national, regional, and international levels. Altogether 18 experts were identified for the consultative process and all of the experts were approached with the checklist of questions related to the SDGs 2030, its mechanisms and implementation processes and progress, gaps including the effective and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples, integration of intersectionality issue, the key issues and challenges from Indigenous People's perspectives among others. The responses of the experts were analyzed and also the relevant documents including the guides, statements, policy briefs referred by the experts were reviewed and presented in appropriate forms in the guide.

Furthermore, this guide has identified the specific gaps in SDGs from Indigenous Peoples' perspectives, country-specific cases (either successful cases or learning cases) in the processes of SDGs implementation, Follow-up and Review (FUR), nationalization, and localization processes. The data were generated from the review of published guides, published papers and unpublished reports, authentic websites of the UN and governments, key informant interviews which have been thoroughly analyzed and interpreted in the simple and easily languages targeting the Indigenous Peoples in the remote and grassroots level.

Some of the sections of the version I of the guide have been scrutinized and minimized in terms of volume and contents whereas some new sections have been added as per the requirement. The SDGs indicators and targets wer thoroughly reviewed and analyzed from the Indigenous Peoples' perspectives and recommended to integrate the cultural aspect with appropriate cases. Some of the indicators and targets, for instance, the poverty indicator of 2.5 USD per day is not relevant for Indigenous Peoples. Instead of it, the specific and relevant indicators and targets for Indigenous Peoples need to be integrated and recommended that Indigenous Peoples have to strategize and advocate continuously in the process including the IPMG to SDGs.

Based on the consultation with the experts and review of the relevant documents, the guide has mainly focused on answering the basic questions on SDGs which will support and guide the Indigenous Peoples at the grassroots level to understand the principles and improve their skills to effectively engage in the process. This guide aims to generate awareness and acquaint the Indigenous Peoples at the local and national levels about the whole SDGs process including what is sustainable development, its history, what are SDGs and targets, how SDGs In interconnected to the Indigenous Peoples, what are the gaps from the Indigenous Peoples' perspectives, the overall framework of SDGs, key attributes that are important of indigenous peoples aligning the UNDRIP and Indigenous Navigator, why Indigenous Peoples need to be engaged in the SDGs, levels of their engagements and how Indigenous Peoples can effectively engage in the SDGs process to affirm and achieve the Indigenous Peoples' rights, aspirations, and self-determined development.

2. What is Sustainable Development (SD)?

Sustainable Development (SD) is not a new concept, which was first materialized in 1987 in the report of Our Common Future, also known as the Brundtland Report. Our Common Future was formulated as a global agenda for change to build a more prosperous, more just, and more secure future under the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED). It emphasized fulfilling the social, economic, and environmental needs of the present generations without compromising the needs of future generations. This was urgently called by the General Assembly of the United Nations for long-term environmental strategies for achieving SD by the year 2000 and beyond. However, it emphasized more on environmental, social, and economic aspects as the three pillars of the but cultural and spiritual aspects that are very important for Indigenous Peoples around the world[1]. There has been several voices, forums, and platforms including the UNESCO, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and researchers emphasizing and calling for the inclusion of culture as the 4th pillar in SD in addition to social, economic, and environmental for better reflection of the complexities of global societies including the Indigenous Peoples and other ethnic minority groups[2].

Current thinking of SD

Social Equality

Economic Growth

Environmental Protection
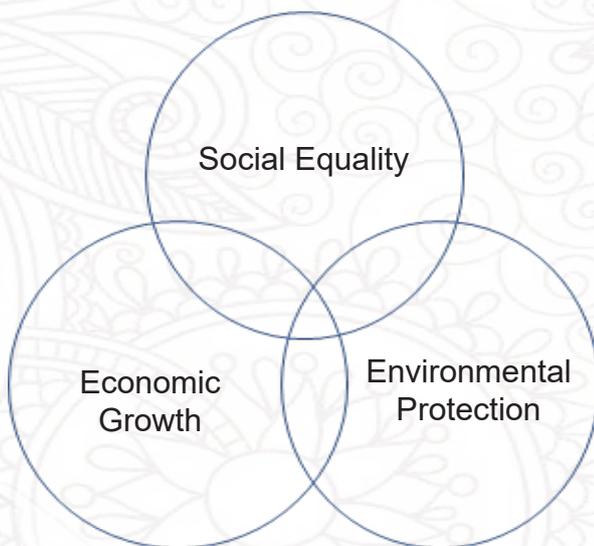
Inclusive thinking of SD

Political & HR

Social

Ecological

Environmental

Cultural

Economic

Figure 1: Pillars of Sustainable Development

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[1]*http://www.un-documents.net/our-common-future.pdf (Accessed on 16 September 2020)*
[2]*http://www.agenda21culture.net/documents/culture-the-fourth-pillar-of-sustainability (Accessed on 16 September 2020)*

Since Indigenous Peoples have a strong attachment with the cultural integrity and social cohesion, this argument of cultural and spiritual aspect as the 4th pillar may be acceptable and valid for Indigenous Peoples. However, it is continuous struggles and negotiations for Indigenous Peoples and supporting agencies in the international forums and platforms. Some of the SDGs experts including the Indigenous experts have argued that sustainability cannot be framed in these 3 or 4 pillars or boxes. On contrary, it is important to be holistic, more visionary, and forward-looking emphasizing the positive transformation of the society, by considering the integration of all aspects and factors that affect the society, particularly Indigenous Peoples, including social, cultural, economic, political, ecological factors. Moreover, other experts have emphasized that the cultural and spiritual aspects have been already integrated into social equality. Daly (1992) emphasized that social equality comprises equity, empowerment, accessibility, participation, cultural identity, and institutional stability. There are continuous debates, arguments, and different perspectives and interpretations on the sustainability and sustainable development issues among the experts and Indigenous experts since its emergence as a global agenda to lead humanity.

Indigenous Peoples have been sustainably managing the lands, territories, and resources, maintaining cultural integrity, customary practices, and continuing Indigenous governance systems for generations. These systems and practices have sustainably managed the available resources and conserved our mother-earth contemplating the requirements of future generations. Most of the sustainably managed forests and natural resources in the world still exist in the Indigenous lands and territories as evidence. Hence, it is important to consider the socio-political, ecological, economic, and cultural aspects rather than simply contemplating social, environmental, and economic aspects as the pillars of Sustainable Development (Figure 1). The respect, recognition, and protection of collective rights to self-determined development, rights to lands, territories, and resources and culturally appropriate education and health systems, and equal access to, employment and livelihood opportunities are integral to the Indigenous Peoples' aspirations for self-determined development.

"Sustainable development has been a popular catchphrase in contemporary development discourse. In spite of its pervasiveness and the massive popularity it has garnered over the years, the concept seems unclear as many people continue to ask questions about its meaning and history, as well as what it entails and implies in development theory and practice" (Mensah, 2019, p1)

Despite historical discriminations and oppressions in political participation, health, education, justice, and basic/fundamental rights including human rights at all levels, Indigenous Peoples have been constantly struggling and protecting their collective rights to self-determined development and rights to lands, territories, and resources. Moreover, in the present context of global climate change, intensifying urbanization, increasing transnational insecurities, and heightening gaps between rich and poor, it becomes crucial to explore the balance between economic, ecological, political, and cultural sustainability. Thus, it is important to integrate the cultural aspect and change the social to political and human resources and environmental to ecological pillars. The ecology is comparatively broader than the environment since it includes human and environment interactions, which is crucial for indigenous peoples. Likewise, the political aspect includes the power and influences of different actors including the societal and Indigenous Peoples and other minorities.

Indigenous Peoples' lifestyles and livelihood practices are closely interlinked and contribute to Sustainable Development since they have been balancing the environment, social and economic aspects for generations. They have a strong attachment to lands, territories, and resources including forestry, agriculture, waters, and also known for their socio-cultural identities and their sustainable livelihood practices. Indigenous Peoples have been sustainably and efficiently conserving and managing the Indigenous lands, territories, and resources by balancing environmental, social, and economic aspects. However, Indigenous Peoples were not recognized as distinct groups under the Millennium that resulted in the absence of targeted measures to address their specific situations related to poverty and severely limited the realization of favorable outcomes.

3. What are Sustainable Development Goals?

SDGs 2030 is an important milestone for sustainability and development of the world, following the MDGs (Figure 2). It is also known as the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, which was adopted on 25 September 2015 by the UN General Assembly. The agenda came into force by 1 January 2016 for 15 years with 17 goals and 169 targets as integrated and indivisible. These goals are important, ambitious, and comprehensive in the present time including 231 unique indicators and 12 indicators reflected in 2-3 goals, which need the cooperation and support among the stakeholders at the national, regional, and international levels with appropriate implementing actions. All the goals and targets are interrelated to each other (Figure 3). "The SDGs are not just an enlargement of the MDGs in terms of the number of goals and targets, but they also seek to address complex issues like inequality and human rights[3]." This new agenda is comparatively inclusive since it has included both developed and developing countries with the promises of 'leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first'. Since most Indigenous Peoples are the most

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[3]NPC, 2017. *Nepal's Sustainable Development Goals Status and Roadmap: 2016-2020. Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission, Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal, www.npc.gov.np, P 11*

vulnerable and marginalized living in remote and inaccessible areas, the Indigenous Peoples around the world need to understand the agenda 2030 and contribute towards its achievement within the timeframe.

Figure 2: History of Sustainable Development

The total population of Indigenous Peoples is estimated to be 370 million in the world, who are known for their collective rights and conservation of 80% of the world's biodiversity and self-determined development. The total population of Indigenous Peoples represents about 5% of the global population and 15% of the world's poor[4]. Many of them speak their Indigenous languages, live in remote, marginalized, and fragile areas. Thus, it is not certain that all of them have understood the SDGs 2030,

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[4]*https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/indigenouspeoples*

especially those living in remote areas, who only speak Indigenous languages. Thus, the practical guide is one of the mediums to reach them translated into the national and local languages to raise awareness and build their capacities on the SDGs, hence, they can also contribute from their understandings. The realization and recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights is enshrind in the international human rights instruments particularly the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). If the SDGs implementation considers the rights of Indigenous Peoples as enshrined in the UNDRIP, Indigenous Peoples' current discriminations and marginalization will be somehow minimized, and their rights and aspirations will be ensured in the process. In contrast,

> "Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG) notes with concerns that many references to Indigenous Peoples were deleted in the final Outcome Document of the Open-ended Working Group on the SDGs (OWG) to be considered for adoption by the UN General Assembly."
> – IPMG Policy Brief

if this process ignores Indigenous Peoples' rights and aspirations, they will be further marginalized and victimized at all levels. Hence, this is one of the opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to engage effectively in the process and ensure their rights, recognitions and aspirations at all levels including the High-level Political Forum (HLPF), regional level platforms and roadmaps, national level sustainable development platforms and mechanisms.

Box 1: Important Human Rights Framework for Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous Peoples have continuously asserted their collective rights to lands, territories and resources, and self-determination in the national, regional and international levels. With their endless collective efforts and struggles, they have successfully produced these human rights frameworks and special UN mechanisms, which are guiding frameworks and mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples in the SDGs process as well.

- UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII, 2000)
- UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2001)
- Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP, 2007)
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP, 2007)
- UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP, 2014)

(Source: AIPP 2017)

"The SDGs are grounded in a vision that aims to transform our world. They aspire to build a world free of poverty, hunger, and disease, in which every woman and every girl enjoys full gender equality, where the environment is protected, and where all People have access to quality education and decent work. This will be a world that is more inclusive, sustainable, peaceful, and prosperous, and free from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, cultural identity, or disability. These are just some of the facets of an ambitious and universal vision, adopted with the pledge that 'no one will be left behind'"[5]. AIPP (2019) argued the inclusiveness of Indigenous Peoples' issues, concerns and rights in the SDGs implementation process since it has ignored the Indigenous Peoples' aspiration in it, despite Indigenous Peoples struggles and advocacy to integrate Indigenous Peoples' development agenda at the local and national levels. The principles of inclusiveness, equality, and non-discrimination need to be strongly integrated with the SDGs implementation for the pledge of "leaving no one behind" and "reach to the furthest first" in reality.

Box 2: Issues and challenges of implementing the SDGs

- SDGs are comprehensive and ambitious, thus challenging especially to the least developed countries since it requires huge resources, skills & capacity enhancement and access to technology to achieve within the timeframe of 15 years.
- SDGs are not standalone goals, achievement of one goal is directly interlinked and has implications with the other goals.
- Difficult to monitor the progress due to lack or limited baseline data for the SDG targets and no robust databases, thus require time to gather and fulfill the data gaps. Moreover, data disaggregation is challenging in tracking the SDGs progress.
- Partnerships with private and community organizations including the Indigenous Peoples' organizations, women's organizations, disabled organizations are necessary for implementing, monitoring and achievements of SDGs.
- The major challenge is to localize the SDGs to national, sub-national and local levels for universal, equitable and inclusive outcomes.
- It is challenging to strengthen the governance systems at all levels to achieve some of ambitious goals such as eradicating absolute poverty, creating jobs, tackling nutrition deficiency and natural disasters.

(Source: NPC 2015; 2017)

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[5] *https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---ifp_skills/documents/publication/ wcms_503715.pdf Page 1*

Figure 3: Sustainable Development Goals

4. General features of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development

The 2030 agenda for sustainable development is universal and comprehensive targeting both developed and developing countries. The main features of SDGs are (AIPP 2017):

- It has 17 goals and 169 targets to be achieved by 2030 add.

- It pledges the 'leaving no one behind' and to 'reach the furthest behind first' thus emphasizing the fundamental human rights and principles of non-discrimination and equality, targeting the most backward and marginalized people and communities first.

- It confirms the appropriate means of implementation (Mo) to support member states' efforts through resources, capacities, and partnership including science, technology, and innovation to reach the goals and targets.

- The Follow-up and Review (FUR) process and the mechanism is important for monitoring, guiding, and strengthening the implementation of the goals.

- The member states are primarily responsible for follow-up and review at the national, regional, and global levels, which should be based on national priorities and capacities including voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent, and integrated approaches.

- Indigenous Peoples have been contributing to the follow-up and review process and the SDGs process at all levels.

- The total number of indicators in the global indicator framework includes 247 including 231 unique indicators and 12 indicators repeated under 2 or 3 different targets.

- The SDGs is materialized through the consultative process, multilateral diplomacy, and multi-stakeholders' participation.

- It is substantiated by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights instruments and affirms 'human rights for all'.

- It emphasizes the 5 'P' principles – Planet, People, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership (Figure 4).
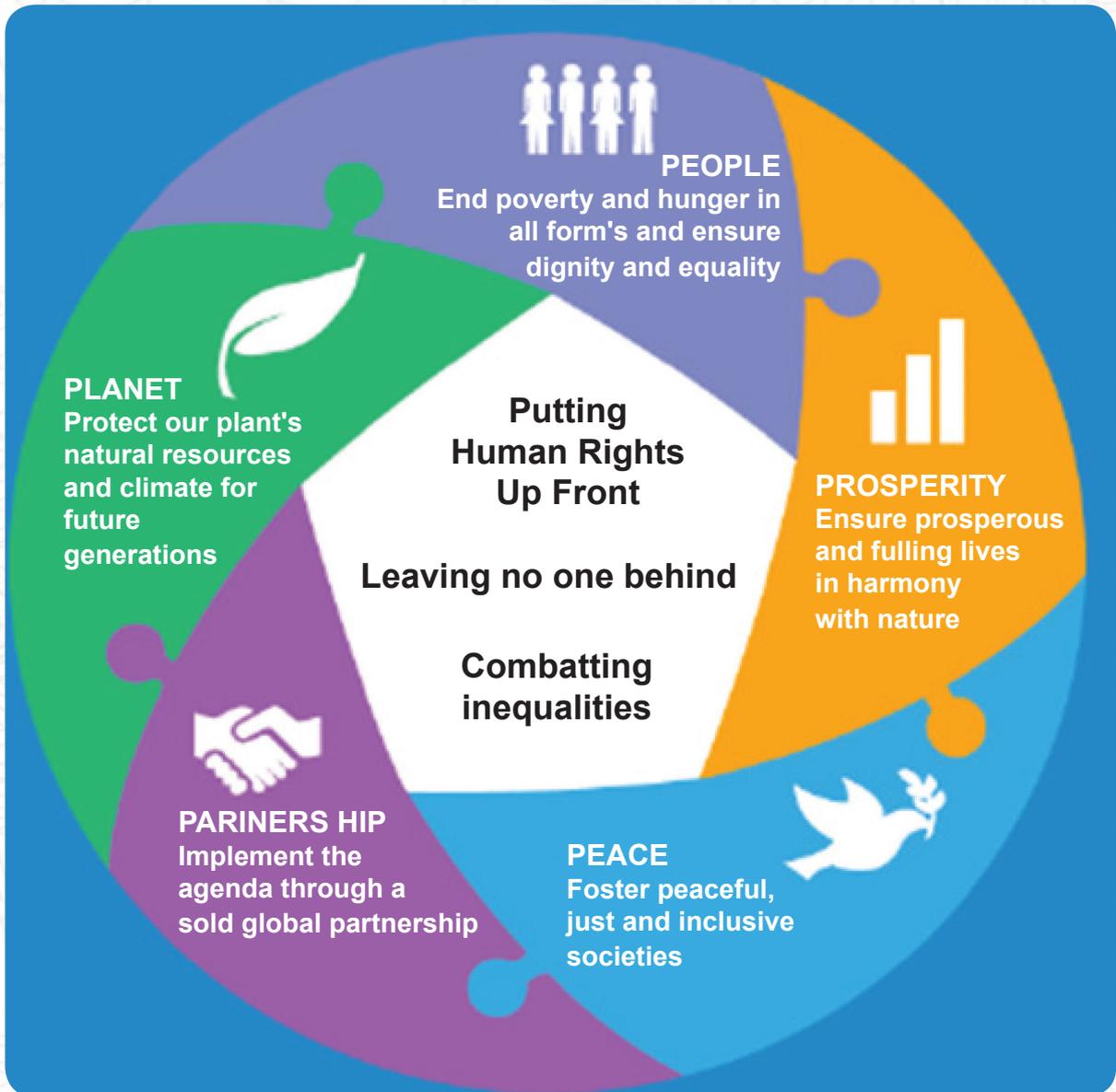
Figure 4: 5 'P' Principles of SDGs (Source: UNPFII, N.D.)

PEOPLE
End poverty and hunger in all form's and ensure dignity and equality

PLANET
Protect our plant's natural resources and climate for future generations

PROSPERITY
Ensure prosperous and fulling lives in harmony with nature

Putting Human Rights Up Front

Leaving no one behind

Combatting inequalities

PARINERS HIP
Implement the agenda through a sold global partnership

PEACE
Foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies

5. Overall Framework of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development

The overarching framework of the 2030 Agenda contains 17 goals and 169 targets which will guide the global and national development actions within 15 years. The whole process of the SDGs 2030 agenda was consultative and inclusive in the history of the United Nations, supported by the international human rights laws, thus, it provides opportunities to integrate human rights for all everywhere including Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Women, Indigenous Youths and elderly and Indigenous Peoples/Women with Disabilities and other minority groups[6]. The SDGs have strongly emphasized human rights, which was not integrated into the MDGs. Moreover, these goals are universal, transformative, comprehensive, and inclusive as compared to MDGs. For Indigenous Peoples, this comprehensive and universal framework needs to integrate Indigenous Peoples' rights and aspirations in all dimensions of sustainable development aligning with the UNDRIP, 2007 and International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 169. The specialized UN mechanisms such as UNPFII, EMRIP, and the Special Rapporteur provide necessary guidance and supports to monitor the progress of Indigenous Peoples' rights and sustainable development (AIPP 2017).
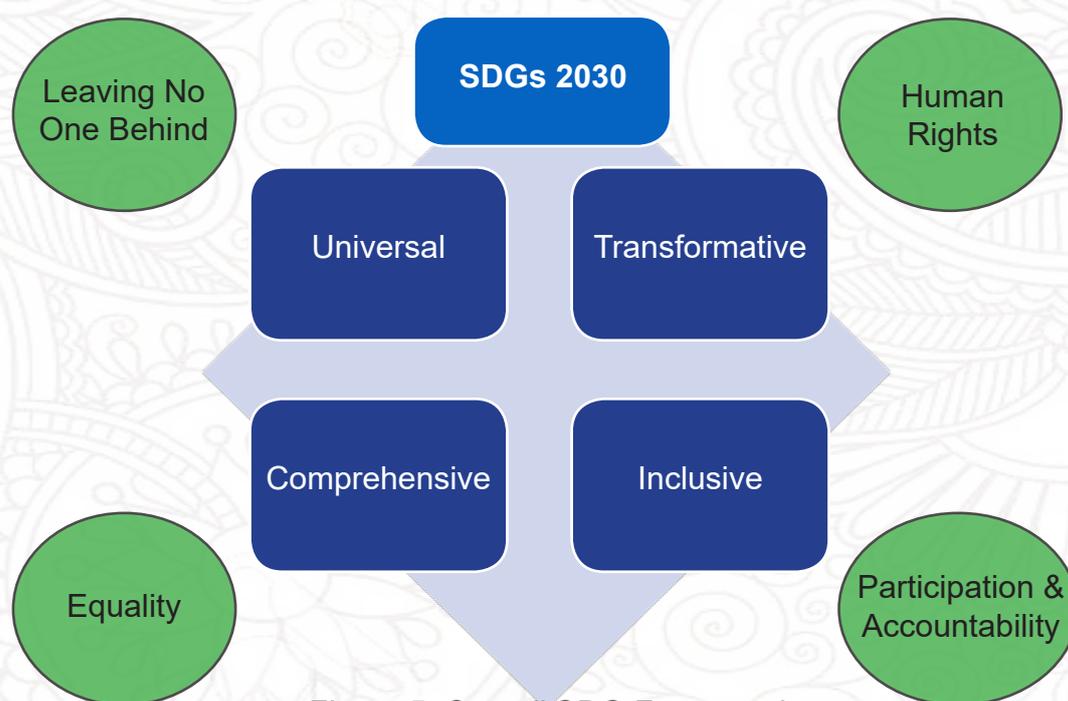
Figure 5: Overall SDG Framework

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[6] https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/SDGS/pages/the2030agenda.aspx

5.1 Universal

The SDGs apply to all countries either developing or developed countries, unlike MDGs in the universal framework. All countries in the world have integrated SDGs in different possible forms and mechanisms since 170 countries have adopted the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

5.2 Transformative

The SDGs 2030 has the potential to be transformative for Indigenous Peoples if implemented effectively by aligning with international human rights instruments and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples. The SDGs emphasize the transformative approaches for a paradigm shift from the traditional model of development towards the people and planet centered, rights-based, and gender-sensitive sustainable development. These agendas have focused on "people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership" (ibid).

5.3 Comprehensive

The 17 SDGs have successfully integrated the social, economic, and environmental goals underlining the peace, just, and comprehensive development without fear and violence. These goals also accentuate all human rights including social, economic, cultural, and civil rights, and right to development contemplating democratic governance, rule of law, access to justice and security.

5.4 Inclusive

The SDGs strongly emphasize the inclusiveness, equality and non-discrimination in the goals, and targets to ensure, and guarantee 'Leaving no one behind'. This also includes gender equality, and social inclusion based on race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national, and social origin, property, birth, disability, or other status.

However, these goals do not provide any specific guidance for Indigenous Peoples and specific references to FPIC on the projects that affect them. Hence, OHCHR, UNPFII, and UNDESA (2017) have considered additional elements to the framework that are important for Indigenous Peoples mainly – leaving no one behind, human rights, equality and participation, and accountability (Figure 5). Indigenous Peoples need to ensure the realization of their rights as enshrined in the UNDRIP to better off the current situation of discrimination, oppression, and marginalization against Indigenous Peoples (AIPP 2017).

5.5 Leaving No One Behind

Since most of the Indigenous Peoples across the world are living in the remote, marginalized areas with limited access to and engagements in the socio-economic and Political spheres, agreement of 'leaving no one behind' and 'reach the furthest behind first' of the SDGs are quite important for Indigenous Peoples, which should be a heart of the agenda 2030 implementation.

5.6 Human Rights

Realizing the "Human rights for all" is one of the main agenda of SDGs which was also reflected in the preamble of the resolution document "Transforming our world – The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." Aligning with the international human rights instruments including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and UNDRIP, the agenda 2030 has envisioned a world with full respect of human rights and dignity, rule of law, justice and equality, and non-discrimination for all (para 8)' (OHCHR, UNPFII, and UNDESA, 2017, page 2). Moreover, Indigenous Peoples' rights have been specifically integrated and monitored in the human rights mechanisms including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the treaty monitoring bodies and special procedures as well as the ILO supervisory bodies. Based on the human rights-based approach aligning with the UNDRIP, Indigenous Peoples have equal rights as other citizens and they can contribute to sustainable development, which should not negatively affect them (AIPP 2017).

5.7 Equality

The SDGs have strongly recognized and integrated the issue of equality and non-discrimination in two specific goals (Goals 5 and 10). Moreover, it has also emphasized the promotion of equality and non-discrimination throughout the goals and targets emphasizing the equal rights of Indigenous Peoples to education, health like other citizens with no discrimination. Indigenous men and women should be treated equally and respected for their equal rights to education, culture, and language, traditional health systems without any discrimination individually and collectively. For instance, the SDG target 1.1. has underlined the eradication of extreme poverty for all People everywhere, which includes the Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Women living in extreme poverty in the remote areas, fragile and marginalized regions.

5.8 Participation and Accountability

Effective participation and accountability are crucial in the whole SDGs process including the successful implementation of the SDGs, follow-up, and review process. All the relevant stakeholders including the government counterparts, major groups should openly, actively, inclusively participate and contribute to the process for transparent and accountable implementation of the goals and targets.

6. Key attributes important for Indigenous Peoples to be reflected in the SDGs

Globally, Indigenous Peoples have been facing severe injustices, discriminations, oppressions, exploitations, and exclusions since ancient times. They have been oppressed, discriminated against, and excluded in multiple forms, which are specific to the regional and national contexts. They are aboriginal people who survived and have sustainably managed the lands, territories, and resources, have maintained the cultural integrity in this world even before any modern states and governments formed. Over the years, they have become marginalized and excluded in the governance structures and the systems developed by mainstream societies. Indigenous Peoples' lands and territories have experienced exploitations and militarization in the name of conservation and development interventions, which is miserably in the increasing trend in most countries. The rights of Indigenous Peoples to their lands, territories, and resources, self-determination, and free prior and informed consent (FPIC) are in a critical situation to ensure the pledge of "leaving no one behind" and "reach the furthest behind first" by the states (AIPP, 2019).

Several international instruments and frameworks are favoring and supporting the Indigenous Peoples to protect and promote their rights and recognitions as Indigenous and aboriginal People. Some of such instruments and frameworks are the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, 1989 and 1957 (No. 169 and No. 107 respectively), United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) 2007, World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) 2014), Paris Agreement 2015 among others. For instance, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNSC) 2012 – 'The Future We Want' has specifically emphasized: "the importance of the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the achievement of sustainable development and the importance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in the context of the global, regional, national and sub-national implementation of sustainable development strategies" (Para 49, UNCSD, 2012). This conference was participated and committed to sustainable development and sustainable future by the Heads of State and government and high-level representatives including the participation of civil society organizations including Indigenous Peoples' organizations (IPOs).

These instruments and frameworks are the main basis for Indigenous Peoples, which have emphasized and reaffirmed their commitments to respect, promote and protect the rights and recognition of Indigenous Peoples by addressing the key issues and concerns in line with the aspirations of Indigenous Peoples at the international and national levels. The UNDRIP and Indigenous Navigator have identified the 13 different

domains and attributes that are important for Indigenous Peoples to ensure their rights and recognition (Figure 6). Indigenous Peoples have demanded the SDGs process and implementation to be aligned with these instruments and frameworks to recognize their rights to self-determination, autonomy, FPIC and others (AIPP, 2019). About 92% of the 17 SDGs and 169 targets are diligently interlinked with human rights and 73 out of 169 targets have significant connections to the UNDRIP (OHCHR, UNPFII, and UNDESA. 2017)[7].

Figure 6: Attributes/domains important for Indigenous Peoples (Source: UNDRIP and Indigenous Navigator)

Since these attributes or domains are enshrined in the UNDRIP and ILO Convention No. 169, they are crucial and relevant for Indigenous Peoples to monitor the implementation of SDGs in rights-based and inclusive approaches[8]. Thus, these data and information gathered at the local and national levels can be utilized for SDG planning, programming, implementation, monitoring and reporting. Most importantly, these 13 attributes or domains need to be integrated with the SDGs, targets, and indicators, since most of the global indicators have not specifically focused on or mentioned Indigenous Peoples whi creates a difficult situation to directly track the indicators from Indigenous perspectives.

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[7]*Danish Institute for Human Rights (2016) – http://sdg.humanrights.dk*
[8]*Indigenous Navigator, 2020. The impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous Communities: Insights from the Indigenous Navigator. https://www.ilo.org/gender/Informationresources/Publications/ WCMS_757475/lang--en/index.htm (Accessed on 31 October 2020)*

7. Which SDGs have integrated Indigenous Peoples' issues and concerns?

The SDGs 2030 are the global development agenda for 15 years with the pledge of 'Leaving no one behind', which means being inclusive and upholding universality by recognizing and addressing the needs and priorities of everyone, particularly, the peoples facing multiple discriminations, oppressions, and structural disadvantages due to poverty, gender, age, race, and ethnicity, nationality, migratory status, disability, geographical locations, and other specific characteristics. All the stakeholders including the governments, civil society groups, beneficiary groups should understand the meaning of leaving no one behind and act and contribute from their levels to fulfill the achievements of the SDGs. These goals are comparatively substantial and comprehensive than millennium development goals, where Indigenous Peoples are largely invisible. Indigenous Peoples' representatives actively participated in the global consultation process, however, all their concerns mainly focusing on the principles of universality, human rights, participation, equality, and environmental sustainability are not fully integrated into the SDGs[9].

Because of continuous and strong engagement of Indigenous Peoples in the 2030 agenda process, Indigenous Peoples have been referred in 6 specific areas in the final resolution including 3 times in the political declaration, 2 times in the targets under goal 2 and goal 4, and also calls for Indigenous People's participation in the section of follow and review. There are still many areas, where Indigenous Peoples' references are still lacking, and utmost required in the SDGs specifically in the specific targets and indicators that directly influence and impact the Indigenous Peoples. Out of these 17 goals and 169 targets, only Goal 2 and Goal 4 and two indicators (Indicator 2.3.2 and 4.5.1) refers directly to Indigenous Peoples (Figure 7). Some additional indicators are relevant to Indigenous Peoples, particularly indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1 on land rights, and indicators 10.3.1 and 16.b.1 are indirectly related to the issues of discrimination. Moreover, there are additional goals and targets such as SDG 13 on Climate Action, Goal 15 on Life on Land, which is very close to Indigenous Peoples' issues. In addition to the direct references, many of these targets are relevant to the Indigenous Peoples.

The 2030 agenda for sustainable development are vital agenda for Indigenous Peoples to engage and contribute since these goals include a wide range of issues that are important for Indigenous Peoples such as poverty, food security, and agriculture, life on earth and water, health, education, employment, climate change, access to justice, security, among others. More or less all of these issues and development agenda/ goals are integrated with the UNDRIP as well. Indigenous peoples are important to major groups in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development though they are not

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[9]https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/ sites/19/2016/10/Briefing-Paper-on-Indigenous-Peoples-Rights-and-the-2030-Agenda.pdf (Accessed on 20 November 2020)

explicitly mentioned in many goals and targets. However Indigenous Peoples are implicitly included in the universality of the agenda underlining predominantly on "leaving no one behind" and "reach the furthest behind first" The specific sections or paragraphs where Indigenous Peoples are referred are:

"People who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the agenda include all children, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDS), people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, refugees, and internally displaced persons and migrants" (Paragraph 23).

"All people, irrespective to sex, age, race or ethnicity, and the person with disabilities, migrants, Indigenous Peoples, children and youth, especially those in vulnerable situations, should have access to life-long learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and to participate fully in society" (Paragraph 25).

"We also encourage Member states to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels which are country-led and country-driven. Such reviews should draw on contributions from Indigenous Peoples, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities" (Paragraph 79).

Indigenous Peoples are raising the issues of full and effective participation in the global, regional national and local formulation process. Thus, their representations have been ensured in some of the mechanisms like Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS), IPMG but their representations and effective participation have not been fully witnessed and ensured in the implementation of SDGs in the national and local level processes by the states. The resources allocated for Indigenous Peoples' empowerment were not adequate to improve their understanding and also their quality of life. Due to the lack of disaggregated data, the distribution pattern of development benefits and prosperity sharing is camouflaging. Unfortunately, Indigenous Peoples have never been made effective participation even as observers in the developmental process and plan formulation with some exception at the national level. No substantive initiatives have been taken by the state to ensure the effective participation and engagement of Indigenous Peoples in the SDG Planning process. Thus, it is very crucial to generate awareness and build capacities of Indigenous Peoples in the SDG process and also make them responsible to critically observe, analyze, contribute and safeguard their specific rights, which have been enshrined in the UDHR, UNDRIP, ILO-169, and CEDAW.
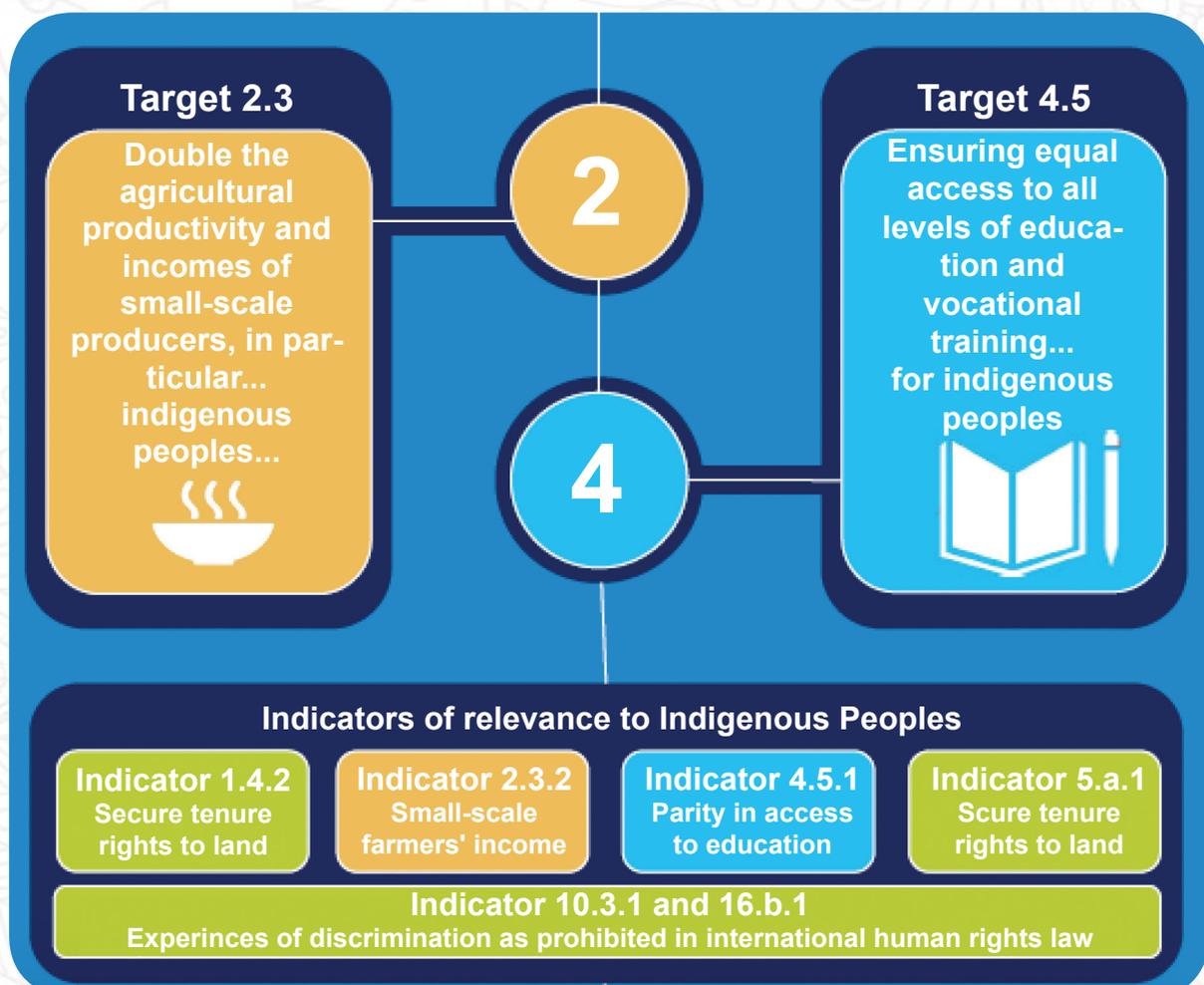
Figure 7: SDGs, targets and Indicators directly relevant to Indigenous Peoples (Source: UNPFII, N.D.)

8. What are the gaps in SDGs from the Indigenous Peoples' perspectives?

The SDGs 2030 is a broad universal framework that has significant importance to the Indigenous Peoples worldwide since almost all goals are directly connected to their livelihoods and well-being. Unlike the MDGs, the SDGs have some references specifically for Indigenous Peoples and commit to empower and engage Indigenous Peoples in SDGs implementation and review processes. There are clear socioeconomic gaps between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population that needs to be minimized for the sustainable development and to realize the pledge of none left behind (Errico N.D.). The reference of the collective land rights is crucial for

Indigenous Peoples in the SDGs. The proposed indicator of securing land rights with the reference to types of tenure can capture the dimension of collective land rights (OHCHR, UNPFII, and UNDESA 2017). Most importantly the Indigenous Peoples and other marginalized groups need to be empowered and built their skills and be engaged in the process with specific guidelines and mechanisms. Hence, the knowledge and understanding of Indigenous Peoples need to be enhanced, thus, they can effectively and meaningfully participate and contribute to the implementation and monitoring processes of the goals and targets within a timeframe.

Despite some reflections and integration of Indigenous Peoples' issues, concerns in the SDGs as compared to the MDGs, there are still several gaps that could be the potential risks for the Indigenous Peoples. Though Indigenous Peoples have continuously advocated and lobbied for their collective rights, effective and meaningful participation, and self-determination, they are often ignored and not effectively engaged in the SDGs implementation processes at the national level with some exceptions. As enshrined in the UNDRIP, it is essential to ensure the collective rights to lands, territories, and resources, and define their economic, political, social, and cultural rights, but these rights are not reflected in the SDGs. Moreover, the holistic development approaches of Indigenous Peoples are not emphasized in the SDGs and the targets. There are many other rights such as rights to FPIC, cultural integrity, rights to mother-tongue-based education, and traditional medical and herbal practices that are important to Indigenous Peoples but not referred to in the agenda 2030. More importantly, the reliable disaggregated data of Indigenous Peoples by their income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disabilities and geographical areas are not yet available in most of the countries that are crucial to ensure none left behind (OHCHR, UNPFII, and UNDESA. 2017).

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Gaps from the IP perspectives

- Lack of reference of lands, territories, self-governance and cultural integrity in defining poverty, which is important for indigenous peoples to explain the poverty. This goal emphasizes only the international benchmark for extreme poverty (less than US$ 1.25 per day).

- No emphasis on the customary institutions, rather it emphasizes mainly economic resources, social protection systems, and environmental shocks and disasters based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies. IPs have a lack of adequate access to these systems and strategies.

- No specific indication of IPs ownership and control over lands, territories, and resources.

- Most of the IPs are in the bottom position of the Human Development Index (HDI).

Recommendations from the IP perspectives

- The collective rights to lands, territories, and resources should be emphasized as that is important to ensure poverty reduction for Indigenous Peoples.

- Disaggregation (gender, age, race and ethnicity, disability, and geographical location) should be emphasized.

- IPs should be engaged in the process since they are highly exposed to poverty due to geographical & political exclusion, historical oppressions, limited access to resources, infrastructures, and assets.

- Definition of poverty for IPs should integrate lands, territories and self-governance, and cultural integrity.

- Ensure IP rights to give or withhold the FPIC to the projects that affect their lands/territories.

> **Box 3: Eroding food sovereignty and driving poverty in rural areas (Goal 1)**
>
> "The commercialization of agriculture and liberalization of international trade from South to North has increased inequality and hunger and poverty in rural areas." Small-scale farmers, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, who produce the food for growing human population, have become marginalized and displaced from their lands and territories. They have gradually lost their control over land and biodiversity, have less access to the water resources required for the agriculture. They have to depend on the seed companies, agro-corporations and agrovets for seeds to grow in their fields, which is totally market-driven. Thus, the farmers and Indigenous Peoples are in the vicious circle of the poverty.
>
> *(PCFS 2013, pp 11)*

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Gaps from the IP perspectives

- Lack of access to lands and natural resources leading to low incomes and productivity from traditional practices, ultimately result in food insecurity.

- This goal has not emphasized the holistic management of agriculture, but rather more on agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale farmers.

- It has emphasized the resilient agricultural practices to increase production and productivity, but not on sustainable agricultural practices and food production systems of Indigenous Peoples.

- It has not referred to the disproportionately high levels of malnutrition of Indigenous Peoples in the remote and fragile areas.

- IPs face threats to their traditional activities including shifting cultivation, hunting, gathering, fishing and pastoralism.

Recommendations from the IP perspectives

- IPs should have full rights to continue their traditional agricultural practices including shifting cultivation, fishing, hunting, pastoralism to fulfill their dietary and nutrition requirements.

- IPs have rights to self-determination, to maintain and develop their political, economic, and social systems or Institutions to be secure in the enjoyment of their means of subsistence and development.

- IPs are free to engage in all economic activities including their traditional occupation, sustainable agricultural practices, and income-generating activities.

- It's important to recognize IPs' collective rights to lands, territories, and resources, which support their sustainable livelihoods for ending hunger and improved nutrition.

Box 4: Role of women towards agriculture and food security (Goal 2)

Women play significant roles in agricultural production and ensuring food security. It is disclosed that 60-80% of food produced by women in Africa and Asia, which mainly includes food crops such as maize, rice, cassava and other tubers, whereas men tend to produce mostly commercial crops. Moreover, women have additional roles in the households mainly raising children, caring family members and feeding them and social responsibilities as well. Despite their significant contributions to the households, agriculture and society, they are often treated differently and they have limited stakes in the decisions in the households and society as well.

(PCFS 2013)

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all of all ages

Gaps from the IP perspectives

- IPs have comparatively 20 years less life expectancy than non-indigenous peoples in general. Their access to quality health services and facilities are limited.

- IPs' ancient and traditional healing and medicinal practices are not included[10] in SDGs.

- Worst maternal health among Indigenous women and adolescent girls due to inequalities and stigma.

- Lack of data on the health of Indigenous Women and adolescent girls.

- The Indigenous Child mortality rate is higher than non-Indigenous Children.

- High levels of maternal and infant mortality, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, and other infectious diseases such as Malaria and tuberculosis

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[10]*https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2214-109X%2820%2930025-5*

Recommendations from the IP perspectives

- Indigenous Peoples particularly Indigenous Women's fundamental rights to health must be guaranteed.

- It is important to ensure and enhance the quality of health services - Recognition of and support to traditional and ancient health practices are needed.

- IPs, particularly Indigenous women and girls, should have access to quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health services.

- Non-discrimination on access to essential medicines and vaccines to Indigenous Peoples, particularly Indigenous Women to reduce the rate of infant maternity, HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.

- The states should address the high suicide rates that affect Indigenous Youths.

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

Gaps from the IP perspectives

- Around 50-75 million marginalized children do not go to school.

- High drop out of the children whose primary language is not the language of instruction in school. No information on mother-tongue based education.

- Indigenous children, who live in extreme poverty, do not go to school, demonstrate higher levels of morbidity and mortality than their non Indigenous peers, and are vulnerable to violence, abuse, and exploitation[11].

- No special measures have been promoted to Indigenous knowledge and skills, practices, mode of learning languages reflected in SDGs.

Recommendations from the IP perspectives

- Ensure equal access to Indigenous children and youth, and in particular indigenous girls, to all levels of education.

- Ensure the promotion of lifelong learning and knowledge-based systems of IPs.

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[11]*https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/digest11e.pdf*

- The states should undertake educational reform to ensure the relevance of learning outcomes for Indigenous children.

- Ensure equal access of Indigenous children and youth, particularly Indigenous girls, to all levels of education within their territory.

- Recognize the Indigenous knowledge and transform it into economic empowerment.
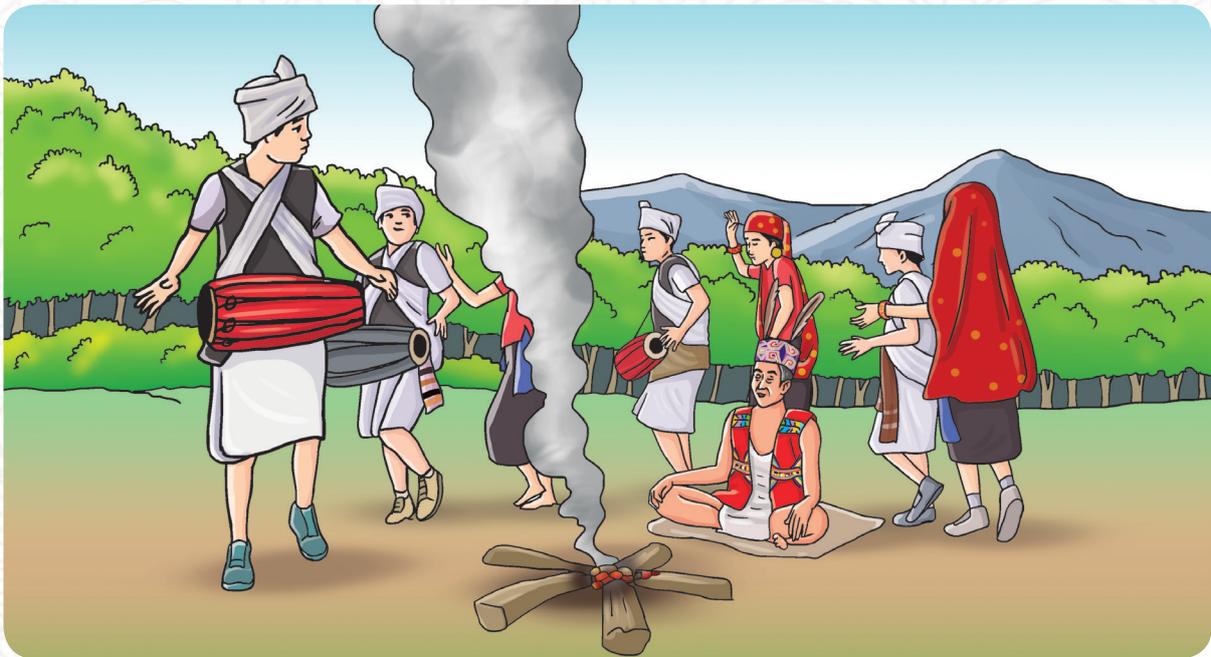
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Gaps from the IP perspectives

- No reflection of triple discrimination faced by Indigenous Women and Girls because of their gender, social status, and ethnicity.

- Indigenous Women experience a broad, multifaceted, and complex spectrum of mutually reinforcing human rights abuses in the patriarchal power structures[12].

- Indigenous Women are disproportionately affected by violence and multiple forms of discrimination.

- Numerous barriers to Indigenous women for their effective and meaningful participation in the SDGs process and mechanisms.

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[12]culturalsurvival.org/news/un-special-rapporteur-releases-report-human-rights-council-rights-indigenous- https://www women-and-girls

Recommendations from the IP perspectives

Special measures to combat discrimination, violence, and harmful practices and barriers for effective participation.

Indigenous Women are the change agent, they are the custodian of natural resources, thus, respect their contributions and decision-making roles.

Ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Women at all levels of decision-making processes.

The state and non-state actors should strengthen the skills and capacities of Indigenous Women and provide appropriate platforms for their effective participation.

Box 5: Indigenous Peoples and Gender Equality (Goal 5)

Indigenous Women face multiple discriminations due to their sex/gender, ethnicity, language, culture, religion and class. The gap on human development index and empowerment between Indigenous Men and Women has increased. But the status of Indigenous Women and gender cannot be generalized among all indigenous communities and countries. In the traditional times, Indigenous Men and Women used to have equal rights and Indigenous Men generally respected Indigenous Women, which is slightly deteriorated in the present context in most of the cases. The collective ownership, accessibility and control over the lands and natural resources of Indigenous Women in addition to gender equity and equality have been weakened comparatively. However, there are still some Indigenous communities in South and South East Asia, where Indigenous Women have equal and even higher social position and status than the male counterparts. For instance, the Indigenous nationalities in Nepal, particularly Tharu women can own the property and have power of utilizing the income freely without support of Tharu men. Likewise, Indigenous Women of Khasi, Garo and Jaintia communities have exclusive rights to lands and ancestral properties.

(Source: SPFII, 2007, Pp 1)

Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all
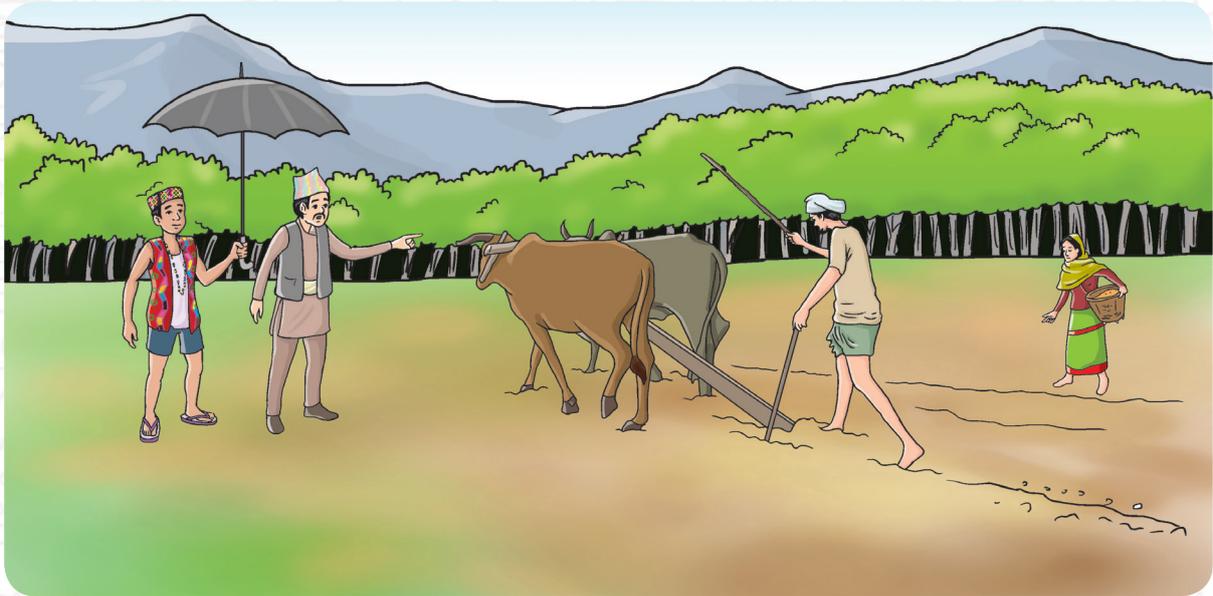
Gaps from the IP perspectives

- IPs suffer disproportionately from inadequate access to safe drinking water and sanitation services.

- Mega Hydropower projects have been established in Indigenous lands, and territories have negative impacts on IPs health, livelihoods, spiritual values, and cultural aspects.

- IPs are not consulted in the related projects. No FPIC has been done with them.

- IPs have been left out without their full and effective participation in levels of decision-making processes.

Recommendations from the IP perspectives

- Ensure the IPs access to safe drinking water and sanitation services.

- Recognize IPs' rights to water resources within their lands and territories and strengthen their management.

- Ensure FPIC for the related projects and programmes in Indigenous lands and territories.

- Ensure the full and effective participation in all levels of decision-making processes.

- IPs should receive the appropriate compensation for the damage to their health, livelihoods and cultures from the hydro-power projects.

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

Gaps from the IP perspectives

- Lack of and limited IPs access to affordable and reliable energy.

- IPs often suffer from negative consequences of the energy from fossil fuels, large scale renewable energy projects.

- Impacts of hydroelectric dams on IPs health and livelihoods in addition to the destruction of the unique natural resources, which cannot be replenished easily.

- Lack of environmental and social impact assessments of the hydroelectric dams, thus impacted on health, environment, and socio-culture aspects.

Recommendations from the IP perspectives

- Ensure FPIC before expanding any renewable energy projects on Indigenous Peoples' lands and territories.

- Ensure in-depth research emphasizing the social, cultural, environment in perspective of Indigenous Peoples before establishing such development projects with FPIC with Indigenous Peoples.

- Develop appropriate compensation mechanisms for the IPs affected by the projects based on the agreed terms and conditions in the FPIC.

Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment, and decent work for all

Gaps from the IP perspectives

- IPs face several threats to continue their traditional occupations, repeatedly discriminated against it, and are forced to manage these difficulties by themselves in securing decent work (ILO, N.D.).

- IPs are discriminated against in the labor market and are among the victims of the worst violations of labor rights, such as child labor and forced labor.

- Many Indigenous Women and Girls work in informal economies such as agricultural

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

labor or domestic work where they are particularly vulnerable to exploitations and harassment.

- Displacement, loss of livelihoods, forced migration, and relocation increase the risk of trafficking, economic and sexual exploitation.

- High unemployment rates of IPs. Discrimination and non-recognition of Indigenous knowledge and skills.

Recommendations from the IP perspectives

- The state and non-state actors should develop special programmes and initiatives to overcome the discrimination of IPs and Indigenous Women.

- Data management systems should be developed with disaggregated data on gender, race, ethnicity, disability in every sector of the work.

- Establish special measures to stop displacement, criminalization, militarization among Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Women, and other ethnic minority groups.

- Recognize the Indigenous knowledge and skills and ensure allocate resources for the development of Indigenous Peoples' economic empowerment.

- Integrate Indigenous People's knowledge, culture, and traditions for the promotion of sustainable economic empowerment.

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation

Gaps from the IP perspectives

- Lack of access to the quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure necessary for their economic development and wellbeing among IPs.

- Large dams and mining activities have caused forced displacement of thousands of IPs without adequate compensations in many countries.

- Several IPs have been forcibly moved out of national parks against their will.

- IPs face barriers to access their resources by discriminatory laws, policies, in which they are unable to realize their full protection as entrepreneurs and innovators based on their Indigenous knowledge and small-scale enterprises.

Indigenous Women's Issues

SDGs
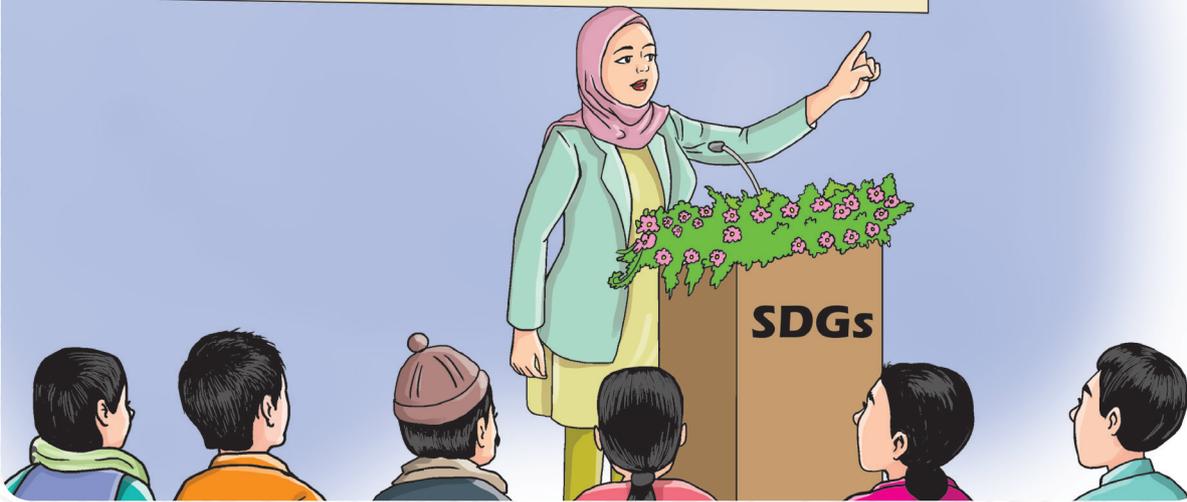
Recommendations from the IP perspectives

- Develop a special programme and initiative for inclusive and sustainable development.

- Ensure access to natural resources and take special measures to combat discrimination and economic empowerment of IPs.

- Generate awareness and utilize the IPs' right to self-determination and right to FPIC in the process of developing industries and infrastructures in the Indigenous lands and territories.

- IPs should get appropriate compensations for the impacts faced by them from the industrial and infrastructural projects.

- IPs innovations and knowledge-based small-scale enterprises should be protected and promoted as appropriate by the state and non-state actors.

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
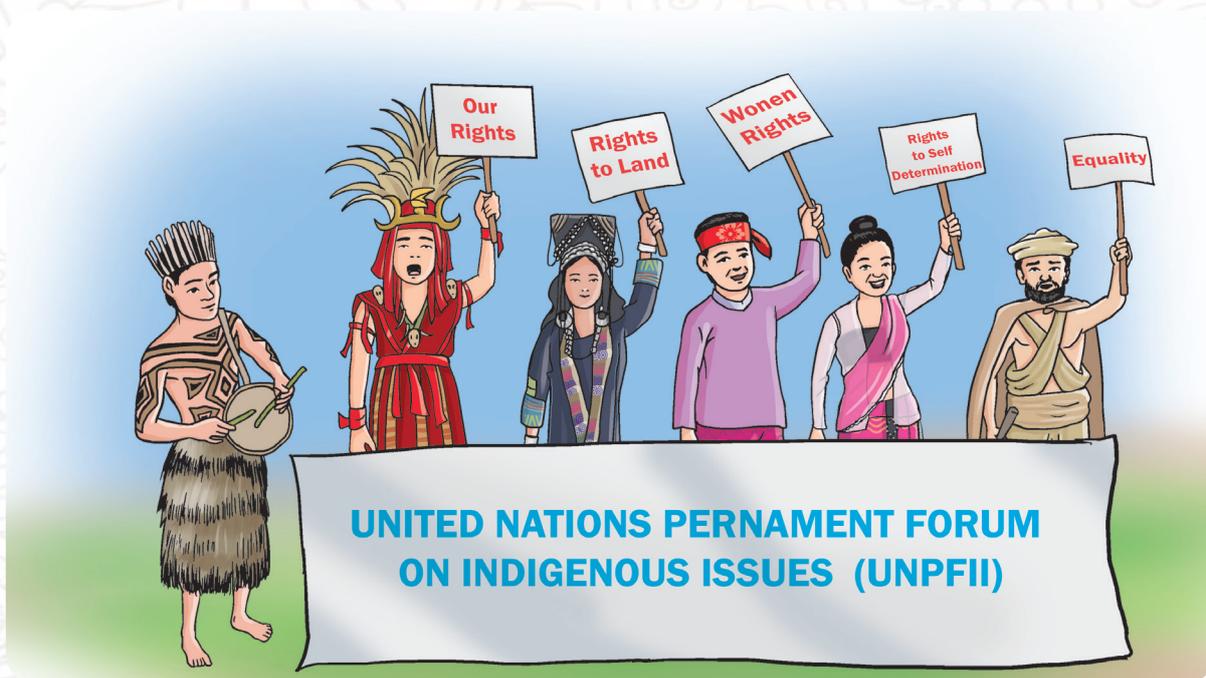
Gaps from the IP perspectives

- Lack of formal recognition over IPs' lands, territories, and natural resources.

- IPs face multiple barriers to participate in the economy and also face multiple layers of discrimination.

- Many international commitments, but weak implementation. much talk, little action of the state and non-state actors for the rights and recognition of IPs.

- Translating political recognition into concrete advances at the national and local levels remains a major challenge.

- Many positive decisions for IPs made at the international level, are not respected or implanted at the national level and Indigenous Peoples' voices are all too often marginalized.

Recommendations from the IP perspectives

- Indigenous Peoples' lands, territories, and resources should be formally recognized, and their rights should be ensured, including the rights of Indigenous Women at all levels.

- Undertake comprehensive reform and ensure that national legislation and policies adhere to the UNDRIP and ILO-169 and other human rights instruments.

- Reduce inequality and ensure the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

- Integrate Indigenous People's issues, concerns, and best practices in national development policies, plans, and strategies.

- Indigenous Women and Girls should have effective participation and contribution in the national, regional, and international processes and mechanisms including the SDGs process/mechanism such as Voluntary National Review (VNR).

Box 6: Promoting equality, social equity, gender equality and women empowerment (based on information made by Lucy Mulenkei – Indigenous Information Network)

Indigenous Peoples have engaged in the UN Development Group Global Thematic Consultations on inequalities, which was co-moderated by the Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UN Women and UNICEF. Since Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Women were invisible in the MDGs, the main aim of this engagement was to ensure the contribution of Indigenous Peoples in the sustainable development process of 2030 agenda and minimizing the inequalities of Indigenous Peoples by ensuring their collective land rights, socio-economic and political rights including equal opportunities and access to the public and private services. Furthermore, it included Indigenous Peoples rights over and access to ancestral lands, forests, waters, and other natural resources as well as their cultural and spiritual well-being since equalities on lands and these resources are crucial for their livelihoods and well-beings.

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/6265Indigenous%20.pdf (Accessed on 29 December 2020

Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable

Gaps from the IP perspectives

- IPs are migrating to urban areas for income generation but living in poor conditions with limited access to basic services, for instance, in slums.

- Forcefully migrated IPs from the hydro dams, National Parks are living in unsafe places, unsafe housing, poor hygiene conditions, and a weak connection to public transportation, and also face greater risks of the impacts of natural disasters.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

- IPs are among the most affected by disasters. They are often live-in areas of extremely limited access to services and assistance.

Recommendations from the IP perspectives

- Many cultural and natural world heritage sites are home to IPs, which should be inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

- UNESCO policy on engaging with IPs recognizes World heritage sites are often located with land managed by IPs whose land use, knowledge, and cultural and spiritual values and practices are related to heritage[13]. Such policies, programmes and practices should be promoted at the national and local levels.

- IPs rights to FPIC should be ensured and not forcefully evicted in the hydro dams, resilient and safe cities, and national parks.

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Gaps from the IP perspectives

- IPs have been excluded from the management of natural resources by restrictions from the military and are not access to their resources.

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[13]*https://en.unesco.org/indigenous-peoples/policy*

- Large companies, transnational companies in the Indigenous lands and territories impacted the Indigenous Peoples' socio-cultural and natural resources and associated knowledge, skills and practices.

- Limited access and knowledge among Indigenous Peoples on public procurement practices and national policies and priorities.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION

Recommendations from the IP perspectives

- IPs should be effectively included and participated in the management of natural resources. Their sustainable management practices should be appreciated and integrated into national policies and plans.

Dialogue on value of Indigenous People's cultures and contributions to SDGs

- Large and multinational companies should adhere to the IPs rights to FPIC and self-determination.

- IPs have full rights to understand the public policies and procurement practices and priorities. Appropriate information should be provided in a language understandable to them.

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Gaps from the IP perspectives

- Indigenous Peoples are the first to face climate hazards since they live in remote, fragile areas with high dependence on natural resources.

- IPs are the least contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change, but they are the most affected people from its impacts. Climate policies and actions often ignore the particular needs and requirements of IPs though they are most vulnerable to its impacts.

- Non-recognition of Indigenous knowledge and best practices in climate policies, plans and programmes related to adaptation and mitigation.

- IPs are living in the most vulnerable areas such as riverbanks, GLOF areas, coastal and disaster-prone areas.

- IPs in remote and marginalized areas are unaware of the policies, plans, practices, and supports from the state and non-state actors.

Recommendations from the IP perspectives

- IPs should be prioritized, and their full and effective participation should be ensured in the climate policies, plans, actions as appropriate at the local, national, regional, and international levels.

- IPs should receive appropriate support from the state and non-state actors to strengthen their resilience and adaptive capacities and direct access to funds designated for that purpose.

- IPs' knowledge, skills, good and sustainable practices should be recognized, respected, and promoted in appropriate forms and integrated into the policies, plans, and actions at all levels.

- IPs living in remote and marginalized areas should get special attention and appropriate support to address the issues of climate change impacts.

- Respect the Cancun Agreement and Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC and integrate as appropriate.

Box 7: Indigenous Peoples as the Change Agent (Goal 13)

Indigenous Peoples are the first to face the impacts of the climate change since most of them live in the remote, fragile and marginalized areas. However, they should not be always considered just as 'vulnerable people' to climate change. It is more important to document the real situation in the ground because Indigenous Peoples are ecosystem people, who have been living and understanding the nature and ecosystems for generations, thus they have sound knowledge and intimate relationship with the environment. Most of them can predict and forecast the weather and climate. They have Indigenous knowledge, skills and practices to address the impacts to some extent. Indigenous knowledge is very unique adaptable to a given culture and environment as they have acquired it through generations of empirical experiences to ameliorate the anticipated adverse impacts interlinked with the change in climate and also related to environmental stresses. These knowledge systems and practices help them to adapt and mitigate with appropriate solutions and measures to climate change. Many of them have been adapting to the changed climatic contexts through their own initiatives in the form of identifying the changes that are occurring in climatic patterns and associated challenges. Indigenous Peoples have been proactively participating and contributing as agents of change to the achievements of the sustainable development goals. They have specific roles and contributions to ensure the sustainable management and use of natural resources, maintaining and enhancing sustainable agricultural and forest management practices, climate adaptation and building resiliency, low-carbon employment and innovations among others.

(Source: ILO, N. D. & AIPP and IWGIA, 2012 Pp 3)

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources

Gaps from the IP perspectives

- Indigenous Peoples regard the inland waters, rivers, wetlands, sea, islands, reefs, sand sea as an inseparable part of their properties, livelihood, and means of living.

- Many IPs, who are dependent on marine resources, are restricted to continue their traditional occupations such as fishing and boating.

- No specific rules or principles in the international legal framework regarding IP rights to salt sea fishing.

- Over-exploitation or harvesting of marine resources has created impacts and threats to the traditional livelihoods of IPs in the areas.

- Policies and plans related to the marine without the effective participation of IPs impacted their traditional livelihoods.

Recommendations from the IP perspectives

- Respect Indigenous Peoples' rights to traditional marine territories and water resources and support their traditional occupations, including improved market access.

- Respect and promote Indigenous Peoples' traditional and sustainable harvesting and marine management systems and reform the related policies and plans as appropriate.

- Over-exploitation and harvesting of the marine resources should be controlled and the indigenous system and traditional livelihoods and occupations should be promoted by the state and non-state actors.

- IPs' full and effective participation should be ensured, and their skills and capacities need to be strengthened.

Goal 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reserve land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

Gaps from the IP perspectives

- IPs face restrictions to access their traditional lands, territories, and resources and also to continue their traditional occupations because of discriminatory policies, plans approved by the governments relating to the forests and biodiversity conservation despite their contributions.

- IPs are also excluded from forest management and other natural resources management, despite their history of sustainable management of the forests and resources.

Recommendations from the IP perspectives

- Recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights to land, territories, and resources, and provide appropriate support for their sustainable management of forest and natural resources.

- Recognize the Indigenous Peoples forest management system and respect and promote their indigenous knowledge and practices.

- Engage IPs in the relevant forest and land management policies, plans, and actions that directly and indirectly affect them.

> **Box 8: Indigenous Peoples' deep respect to nature and life on earth**
>
> Indigenous Peoples have close connection with the lands, territories and resources, which basically includes all lives in earth. For instance, the culture of Maori People of New Zealand have believe in equal and interdependent relationship of People and nature which is reflected in "Kaitiakitanga" a Maori word meaning guarding and protecting the nature to respect their ancestors and ensure their future. Likewise, many other Indigenous Peoples have similar traditions, values, beliefs of protecting the nature, which will ultimately protect them. "Their traditions and belief systems often mean that they regard nature with deep respect, and they have a strong sense of place and belonging."
>
> *(UNEP 2017)*

Goal 16: Promote a just, peaceful, and inclusive society

Gaps from the IP perspectives

- IPs face serious inequalities, violence, and violation of their human rights including the killings for protecting their lands, territories, and resources[14].

- The human trafficking rate is high in Indigenous Women. In Nepal out of 10 women, 7 are Indigenous Women.

- Indigenous leaders and IPs, who raise voices against the development or investment projects from extractive industries or large infrastructure projects like hydropower are often subjected to criminalization, harassment, threats, violent attacks, and killings[15].

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[14]*https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/08/02/indigenous-people-are-being-killed-protecting-their-land-we-will-not-be-silent/*
[15]*https://www.iwgia.org/en/focus/indigenous-rights-defenders-at-risk.html*

Recommendations from the IP perspectives

- Ensure IPs' access to justice within the formal judicial systems based on recognition of their rights as enshrined in the UNDRIP and recognition and support to their customary law institutions.

- Undertake targeted initiatives to provide legal identity for the numerous IPs who do not have recognized citizenship in the countries where they live.

- Take immediate steps to protect IP human rights defenders and environmental activists who are at risk for defending their lands and territories.

- Respect IPs governance system and customary laws and policies.

Box 9: Indigenous peoples role in implementing SDG 16

"Indigenous People's traditional knowledge is often unrecognized along with their rights to land, education and resources." The 18th session (22 April to 3 May 2019) of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), which was focused on the theme of Indigenous Peoples traditional knowledge generation, transmission and protection, have emphasized on Indigenous Peoples roles on successful implementation of SDGs 2030. This session has recommended for an international expert group meeting on Indigenous Peoples role in implementing SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institution among others).

Goal 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Gaps from the IP perspectives

- Indigenous Peoples, IPOs and their networks are not considered, consulted, and involved as the partners to the development, conservation, and research programmes and projects for sustainable development. They are often considered activists, defenders, and troublemakers who always demand their rights and recognition especially by the state actors at the local and national levels.

Recommendations from the IP perspectives

Indigenous Peoples and their organizations and networks are fundamental partners to

address the ongoing issues and concerns in the world and also for the achievement of the sustainable development agendas.

Indigenous Peoples and their self-selected representatives and representing organizations should effectively participate and contribute to the policies, plans, programmes, and projects as appropriate for the benefit of the IPs and the whole world.

Box 10: SDGs process and progresses in Nepal

Government of Nepal (GoN) has claimed the milestone achievements in some of its development targets in the last 2 decades. Nepal met almost all of the Millennium Development Goals set for achievement between 2000 to 2015. For instance, poverty in Nepal is reported to be 23 percent in 2015, i.e., reduction from 49 percent in 1992. However, the records of achievements are not even across the social groups, gender and geographical regions. The SDGs have been categorized in to 5 different clusters with better concept – Basic mark of civilization (Goals 1, 2, 6, 7), Exercise of human capabilities (Goals 3 and 4), Higher human aspiration (Goals 5, 10, 16), Means for sustained progress (Goals 8, 9, 11 and 12), Threats to future prosperity (Goals 13, 14, 15). All of these goals are intertwined. Achievement of one goal is supported by the achievements of others. However, the prioritization and achievement of goals will be guided by availability of financial and other resources and support of international development partners.

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9. Why do Indigenous Peoples need to be engaged in the SDGs?

Indigenous Peoples have been the important constituency group in the international processes, mechanisms, and instruments including the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. They have been engaged in and contributing to these SDGs related processes and mechanisms at the national, regional, and global levels. IISD (2019) mentions "no sustainable development without Indigenous Peoples" as they play a vital role in the world's land management and maintaining the world's food systems diverse and sustainable[16]. Thus, Indigenous Peoples' effective and meaningful participation is crucial for the achievement of sustainable development goals in line with the UNDRIP in the global, regional, national, and sub-national contexts. The SDGs could be the opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to secure their rights and control over the land, territories and resources since these goals have emphasized equal rights to available resources and equitable benefit sharing (OHCHR, UNPFII, and UNDESA. 2017).

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[16]*https://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/guest-articles/no-sustainable-development-without-indigenous-peoples*

IPMG is the forum for Indigenous Peoples' effective engagement. Indigenous Peoples engage in the SDGs processes and mechanisms to promote the recognition and protection of their rights, aspirations and self-determined sustainable development. The Rio+20 conference on sustainable development and the high-level plenary meeting of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) have supported the full pledge of Indigenous People's effective engagement. Through active and meaningful engagement in the process, Indigenous People's perspectives and initiatives would be integrated to advance the self-determined sustainable development[17]. Furthermore, in the present context of SDGs after 5-years of implementation and FUR, it is imperative for Indigenous Peoples to understand and analyze the SDGs progresses, achievements, lessons from the Indigenous perspectives and contribute further for amplified implementation of the SDGs goals, indicators, and targets from 2020 to 2030.

Being an important constituency group, Indigenous Peoples have the responsibilities to critically observe, analyze, contribute, and safeguard their specific rights and aspirations, which have been enshrined in the UDHR, UNDRIP, and ILO-169. To fulfill these objectives and contribute to the agenda 2030, it is important to understand the SDGs, indicators, and targets. Version I of the practical guide has emphasized providing basic information about the SDGs and their relevance to Indigenous Peoples and covered 3 key aspects of Indigenous Peoples to be protected from adverse impacts of the mainstream development; right to participate and receive benefits from the development efforts; and collective rights to self-determined development. Version II of the practical guide has analyzed the targets and indicators from Indigenous Peoples' perspectives. Furthermore, this version has also focused on providing a simplified and reader-friendly description of SDGs, its targets/indicators incorporating the specific cases of SDGs implementation at the national level and progress of FUR after its 5th years of implementation.

> **Box 11: Indigenous peoples representation and participation in development process**
>
> Effective representation and participation of Indigenous Peoples are not always ensured in development and decision-making processes, despite the supportive policies and acts. Even the reserved seats of Indigenous Peoples are often occupied by the dominant groups and politically affiliated IP representatives in many countries including Bangladesh, Vietnam, Nepal. Moreover, the whole process of SDGs implementation is not inclusive. However, many Indigenous Peoples and their representing organizations have started to engage and influence the development processes including the SDGs process at the national, sub-national and local levels to effectively ensure equality and inclusiveness and combat discrimination.
>
> *(AIPP 2019)*

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[17]*https://www.iwgia.org/en/ip-i-iw/3658-iw-2020-sdgs.html*

Indigenous Peoples need to effectively engage in the SDGs process to build a strong collaboration with the multi-stakeholders including the government counterparts, CSOs, and other key actors to push through the issues and concerns of Indigenous Peoples in the SDGs implementation. The engagement can be ensured with mainly four basic steps begin with understanding the concept of SDGs, its targets, and commonly available indicators. However, Indigenous Peoples at the grassroots level also need to understand it. In the whole process of its implementation, monitoring and evaluation, follow-up and review processes, multiple stakeholders either support or obstruct or stay neutral. Among all these categories of stakeholders, it is crucial to identify the potential collaborating partners and select the self-representative of Indigenous Peoples who can raise and bring the collective voices, issues, and concerns of Indigenous Peoples in the national and international forums as appropriate. This whole process of consolidation leads to the outcome evidencing and sustaining the collaborations and partnerships (Figure 8).

- What are SDGs, targets and indicators?
- What are the key issues & concerns of IPs?
- How SDGs affect the IPs at the local and grassroots level?
- How IPs can be part of evaluation of SDG outcomes?
- How can SDG process influence the future steps?
- How can engagements and collaboration be sustained?

Understanding the SDG goals, targets and indicators

Exploring the potential engagements, collaborations

Evaluating the outcomes and sustaining the engagements and collaborations

Self-representing the forums & platforms related to SDGs at the national level as appropriate

- How do IPs can engage & involve in the SDG process?
- What do IPs expect from SDG process?
- Who can possibly support IPs to engage in the SDG process?
- How can ensure IPs' self-representatives in the SDG process?
- How IPs representatives can effectively and meaning-fully contribute in the SDG process?

Figure 8: Cycle of Indigenous Peoples understanding, engagement, and sustaining collaboration in the SDGs processes

10. What can Indigenous Peoples do in the SDGs process?

Indigenous Peoples, being one of the key actors and the major groups, have strong roles and contributions in the whole process of SDGs at all levels. The sustained engagement of Indigenous Peoples at the local, national and global levels in the past for over 3 decades supported in shaping the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, which needs to be continuous in the effective implementation and achievement. Indigenous Peoples' representatives have been effectively participating and engaging in the regional and international levels as compared to the national and local levels. IPMG comprises Indigenous leaders and representatives across the regions actively participate in the global and regional processes related to SDGs. To effectively engage and act in the SDGs process even at the national and local levels, it is crucial to understand the SDGs, it's processes and mechanisms at different levels by the Indigenous Peoples, build solidarity and select the IP representatives through the self-selection process, engage in the processes and mechanisms effectively and act on it individually and collectively for the rights and benefits of the Indigenous Peoples in the SDGs implementation and localization processes (Figure 9).

Act on SDGs processes

What are possible contributions of IPs?

Engage in the SDGs processes & mechanisms

Where and how to engage effectively?

What skills are required?

Build solidarity, capacity and select IP representatives

Who can effectively represent IPs in SDGs?

What are SDGs?

Understand SDGs, targets and indicators, possible engagements

What are IPs' concerns & possible impacts to them?

Figure 9: Indigenous Peoples engagement in the SDGs processes and mechanisms

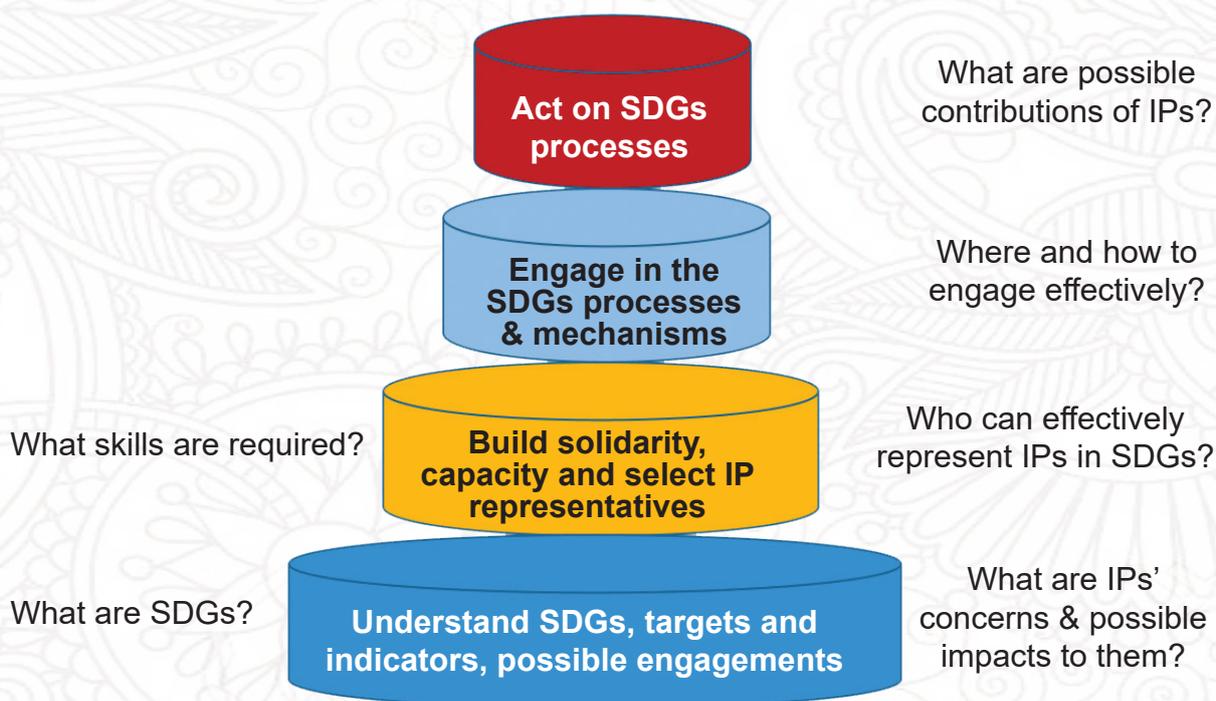The major roles and contributions of Indigenous Peoples can be summarized as follows: It is almost impossible to end poverty (SDG 1), achieve gender equality (SDG 5), or reduce inequalities (SDG 10) by excluding Indigenous Peoples from the benefits and upholding their rights (IFAD 2019). To make leaving no one behind a reality, it's crucial to ensure effective participation, recognize Indigenous Peoples' collective rights, and equitable benefit sharing. Indigenous Peoples have successfully and sustainably managed their lands, territories, and resources including associated knowledge, skills, and cultural practices, food production systems, forest and water management systems. The rich biodiversity in the Indigenous lands and territories is evidence of the successful and sustainable management which directly reflects the SDG 15. At the same time, diverse seeds and crop species/varieties contribute to food security and nutrition in the world (SDG 2). Even in the Indigenous Peoples' traditional agricultural practices i.e., shifting cultivation practices in the steep and fragile slopes, have conserved and managed the diverse seeds. The food produced in the shifting cultivation plots is secure, healthy with adequate nutrients, and micro-nutrients for ensuring food security (Cherrier et al 2018).

Indigenous Peoples have sustainably managed these diverse resources including seeds and crop species and varieties, local and resilient landraces, which also contribute to the climate resiliency and sustainable food production systems of Indigenous Peoples. Though Indigenous Peoples are considered as highly marginalized and vulnerable communities since most of them live in remote and fragile ecology and ecosystems, they have been successfully managing the available resources by altering the climate adversity into livelihood opportunities. In that sense, Indigenous Peoples are the first to face climate adversity and vulnerability despite their least contribution and at the same time, their climate adaptability and resilience capacity are comparatively higher (SDG 13). Moreover, Indigenous Peoples have strong social and cultural integrity and respect for gender equity, equality, and social inclusions (SDG 5). Indigenous Peoples and society mostly follow their traditions, self-represented participation, and governance systems which contribute to peaceful and inclusive societies (SDG 16) (IFAD 2019).

11. Levels of Indigenous Peoples' engagements in SDGs

To achieve these ambitious agenda through effective implementation actions, the cooperation and engagements between and among the stakeholders including the governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), IPOs, business and private sectors, academic and research organizations are imperative at the national, regional and international levels (Figure 10). At the national level, the countries have initiated and developed specific plans to transform the ambitious agenda into actions through their national systems and mechanisms for harmonizing and promoting SDGs implementation. For instance, the Government of the Republic of the Union of

Myanmar (GoM) developed the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plans (MSDP) 2018-2030 as the living document with 3 pillars, 5 goals, and 28 strategies. The MSDP is the plan to reflect and implement the global SDG targets within the national and local development plans and strategies. The GoM has claimed this document as the product of the multiple consultations with myriad stakeholders. However, it is not well explanatory how the multiple stakeholders including the ethnic minority groups have been consulted and engaged in the process (Ministry of Planning and Finance 2018). Likewise, the Government of Nepal (GoN) has also integrated the SDGs into the national planning by internalizing the key aspects of SDGs in the periodic plans and budgeting systems (NPC 2017). Likewise, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has also adapted the SDGs with its localized framework in the national context by additional goals focusing on the ending negative impacts of landmines and unexploded ordinance and promoting victim assistance. In that sense, the SDGs in Cambodia consisted of 18 goals, 88 nationally relevant targets and 148 globally and locally defined indicators (RGC, 2019).

International level

Regional level

National and local level

Figure 10: Levels of Indigenous Peoples' organizations' engagements in the SDG process

Some of the goals predominantly the goals related to climate change, natural disasters, energy security, ecosystems, life in the land, and oceans are transboundary, which requires regional and international cooperation and support to implement and achieve the goals. Some of the international and regional organizations including the UN agencies have been playing crucial roles for capacity building, technical supports for effective implementation, and achievements of the SDGs at the regional

and international levels. There are some regional organizations such as AIPP that have playing noteworthy roles and contributions for generating awareness, building capacities, and required technical supports to the Indigenous Peoples and their organizations for effective engagements and successful implementation of the SDGs goals and targets.

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Box 12: SDGs 18 in Cambodia

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has additional SDG goals and targets as per the national context and requirement. The RGC has developed and executed additional goal concentrating the landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW), which aims at zero mine by 2025. However, the actual achievement of it is comparatively less than the actual plan. The RGC has achieved a total of 41.068 ha of lands cleared out from land mining out of the targeted 58,795 ha lands in the period of 3 years from 2016 to 2018. In that regards, the progress made in achieving the target is comparatively less than the targets, but satisfactory achievement within short period of time in terms of reducing the impacts of landmine and ERW casualties. However, the initiatives of the RGC must be appreciated to address the issues of landmines and ERW, since indigenous peoples have been in the frontline of its impacts. There are still 1970 Km2 land affected by landmines and ERW in Cambodia as of December 2018.

(RGC, 2019)

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11.1. Follow-up and Review (FUR)

The 2030 Agenda has developed a specific mechanism of the FUR to measure and guide implementation and progress of the SDGs and targets that operate at three levels – global, regional, and national. The HLPF takes place at the global level with a central role in the supervision of the network of follow-up and review processes (Table 1). The FUR process concentrates on the experiences, successes, challenges, and lessons learned and provide political leadership, guidance, and recommendations as well as emerging issues faced by developed and developing countries. The FUR processes and mechanisms are voluntary and led by the countries that are operational at the national, regional, and international levels for Indigenous Peoples for effective engagements. Nevertheless, there is no mechanism to do an independent review or provide direct recommendations to the countries. In that sense, Indigenous Peoples have to provide the recommendations utilizing the human rights systems either the UN Special Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to guide the SDG implementation at the national level (AIPP 2017).

Table 1: UN Meetings at different levels

Level	Paragraph	Meeting and Outcomes
National	78-79	Regular and inclusive reviews
		National and sub-national levels
		From Indigenous Peoples, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders
		National Parliaments and Public institutions
Regional	80-81	Regional and sub-regional levels
		United Nations regional commissions
Global	82-91	High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)
		Voluntary National Review (VNR)

11.2. International/Global level

A HLPF is the UN central platform that meets annually under the UN Economic and Social Council and UN General Assembly, which was established under the mandates of the outcome document "The Future We Want" of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012. This is the forum where governments, civil society, and other actors meet and review the implementation of SDGs. HLPF has a specific role of follow-up and review of the 2030 agenda of SD at the global level, in which the member states effectively participate and conduct country-led or country-driven regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national level and sub-national levels. At the HLPF, the member states participate and report the progress and challenges in reaching the goals in VNRs in respective countries. The HLPF also provides a platform for partnership through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders. The first HPLF started in 2013 with the theme of 'Building the Future We Want: From Rio+2015 Development Agenda.' The details of other HPLF are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: The HLPF timeline and themes

Year	Themes
2013	Building the Future We Want: From Rio+ 2015 Development Agenda
2014	Achieving the MDGs and Charting the way from an ambitious post-2015 Development Agenda including the SDGs
2015	Strengthening integration, implementation, and review the HPLF 2015

2016	Ensuring the no one left behind
2017	Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world. SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14, and 17
2018	Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies. SDGs 6, 7, 12, 15, and 17
2019	Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality. SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17
2020	Accelerated action and transformative pathways: Realizing the decades of action and delivery for sustainable development

The outcome document "The Future We Want" of the UN General Assembly dedicated a section to engage Major Groups and other stakeholders. Indigenous Peoples are one of the Major Groups, in the SDG process, who have been actively engaging in the follow-up and review of sustainable development commitments and achievements. As one of the constituencies of the Major Groups, Indigenous Peoples have the opportunity to attend all the official meetings of the HPLF, have access to all official information and documents, intervene in official meetings, can submit documents and present written and oral contributions, make recommendations and opportunity to organize side events and round tables in cooperation with member states and secretariats. However, unlike other UN meetings and forums, the seats provided to Major Groups in general and specifically Indigenous Peoples are very limited. Thus, indigenous peoples and other members of the major groups have to negotiate within it to intervene in the forum. Moreover, there are limited opportunities to discuss the issues and consolidate the statements and official interventions in the HLPF like other UN meetings and conferences. The annual UN meetings on SDGs are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Annual UN Meeting on SDGs

Months	Venue	UN Meetings
March	Bangkok, Thailand	UN - Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)
July	New York, USA	UN High-Level Political Forum (LHPF) and Voluntary National Review (VNR)
September	New York, USA	UN General Assembly
September/ October	On a rotational basis	UN - Sub - regional Multi-stakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development
November- December	On a rotational basis	Conference of Parties (COP) – UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The UN activities related to SDGs have also encouraged the MGoS to establish effective coordination mechanism for efficient participation in the HLPF where IPMG is Indigenous Peoples coordination mechanism which is effectively engaging IPs in the global and regional platform related to SDGs. In 2017, IPMG also declared Indigenous Peoples in the Ministerial Declaration of the HLPF of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Moreover, Indigenous Peoples have opportunities to involve actively in other constituency groups in the forum like farmers, women, youth and children, migrant workers, persons with disabilities and integrate their issues and concerns at the global level.

11.3. Regional level

The global platform has also created the regional spaces which have been the most important processes for the comprehensive mechanism provided by the UN that is mandatory in UN SDG 2030 agenda. The voices from the regional to global is the inclusive mechanism and most important process to achieve the 2030 agenda. The UNESCAP hosted the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) and facilitated the regional SDG Roadmap for Asia and the Pacific that emphasized addressing the transboundary issues and challenges. This roadmap had been adopted with the wider CSO consultation which aimed to effectively implement the SDGs at the regional level, in support of the ESCAP Secretariat and other UN entities. The regional roadmap identified the priority areas for regional cooperation and support to implement and achieve the SDGs particularly focusing on climate change, climate resilience and disaster risk reduction, management of natural resources, and energy. The regional roadmap also emphasized the data and statistics, technology, finance, policy, and

> **Box 13: Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCEM)**
>
> APRCEM is a civil society platform aimed to enable stronger cross-constituency coordination and ensure that voices of all sub-regions of Asia Pacific are heard in inter governmental processes at the regional and global level. It aims to improve effective engagement and participation of CSOs in sustainable development goals. The platform is initiated, owned and driven by the CSOs, and seeks to engage with the UN agencies and member states across the region on the issue of sustainable development. As an open, inclusive, and flexible mechanism, RCEM is designed to reach the broadest number of CSOs in the region, harness the voice of grassroots and peoples' movements to advance development justice that address the inequalities of wealth, power, resources between countries, between rich and poor and between men and women.
> *(Ref:https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/APPDSD%202019Programme%20_22%20 March%202019.pdf)*

partnerships among the countries (UNESCAP 2017). In the regional level forum, the side events have been organized that are intended to support and facilitate the discussions on regional cooperation on a key instrument for the SDGs, where CSOs including IPOs can contribute to the discussion on cooperation between developed and developing countries. This platform also provide CSO and IPOs to raise their issues and concerns to be addressed in the SDG planning and implementation.

11.4. National and Sub-national level

The UN encourages all member states to develop realistic determined national strategies and plans to implement the SDGs 2030, which includes transitional phases to the actual implementation of the SDGs, planning, and integration to national development and sustainable development strategies. The states need to develop national plans to implement the 2030 agenda and conduct a regular and inclusiv review of progress at national and sub-national levels in coordination with and contribution of Indigenous Peoples, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders aligning with the national circumstances, policies, and priorities. The states and governments have agreed to work closely with the Major Groups and other stakeholders by participating in the processes that contribute to decision-making, planning and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development at all levels.

Moreover, the UN encourages the member states to involve the MGoS in the VNR and reiterates the call to report on their contribution to the implementation of the SDGs. Every country has to develop national development plans with the commitment to involve and participate in the MGoS. Thus, Indigenous Peoples have also opportunities to engage and influence in national discussions and decisions for their development process. Furthermore, Indigenous Peoples have the opportunity to submit the shadow report as a complaint to the VNR process, if the country VNR report has not included the issues and concerns of Indigenous Peoples in the SDG implementation. For instance, the civil society representing the MGoS in Nepal submitted the Volunteer Peoples Review (VPR) in 2020. Likewise, IPOs in Nepal submitted their specific report to the VNR process of Nepal under the HPLF in 2017 and 2020.

Likewise, the VNR process in Cambodia started in 2018, which the RGC claimed to be a consultative process with the involvement of the multi-stakeholders including civil society and business sectors. However, the Indigenous leader/expert from Cambodia has raised the issue of limited engagement of Indigenous Peoples in the SDGs process including the VNR process in Cambodia. As per the leader/expert, SDGs and targets are old wine in a new bottle with the copy and paste of MDGs. Moreover, the government didn't make any commitments to integrate the issues and concerns

of Indigenous Peoples in it. Indigenous Peoples are still discriminated against and excluded in the policies formulation and implementation especially in the land policies and programmes. The rights and recognition of Indigenous Peoples in Cambodia are still not satisfactory. It is also required to strengthen the capacities and networks of Indigenous Peoples to understand and engage effectively and meaningfully in the process.

> ### Box 14: Reality in the ground in terms of SDGs implementation
>
> The SDGs have been taking a momentum in terms of wider discussion, consultation and implementation at the international, regional and national levels. However, most of the People and communities at the ground, particularly Indigenous Peoples, have not understood it well. An Indigenous expert from Philippines says, 'SDGs are not effectively implemented in the ground. The Filipino government is not really serious to implement the goals. For instance, the government has been aggressively grabbing the lands instead of promoting the goal of NO HUNGER. If Indigenous Peoples lost their lands, how can the goal of NO HUNGER be assured?' Another IP expert from Thailand has realized that SDG is very complex and complicated for Indigenous Peoples at the ground to understand and engage in the process, thus, it is necessary to provide the information in simpler ways with examples, illustrations and pictures so that they would understand it correctly and act on it accordingly. Whereas an IP expert from Nepal sees SDGs as the opportunity for Indigenous Peoples to understand it well and engage in it holistically to push forward the issues and concerns of Indigenous Peoples since SDGs have emphasize the slogan of 'leaving no one behind'. More importantly, the Indigenous Peoples' roles and contributions in the development process including SDGs need to be appreciated and reflected in the government policies, plans and their effective implementation.

12. Stepwise SDG Guide for Indigenous Peoples

12.1. Understanding the relevance of SDGs goals and targets to Indigenous perspectives

The most important aspect for Indigenous Peoples and other major stakeholders is to understand the goals, targets, and indicators and their importance and relevance to them. To move forward strategically, Indigenous Peoples need to define purpose to engage in the SDGs process and identify the People and organizations, who will support Indigenous Peoples and influence and persuade the people and organizations, who oppose them in the process (Figure 11). Monitoring and feedbacks

are also crucial for Indigenous Peoples to assess the progress made and strengthen Indigenous movements and networks. The SDGs have covered almost all the issues relevant to the Indigenous Peoples including health, education, employment, climate change, energy, biodiversity in the land, and ocean among others. All of these goals are integrated and indivisible which support the holistic development of Indigenous Peoples if implemented successfully considering Indigenous Peoples' rights and aspirations and their meaningful participation. They must ensure access and rights to reliable information in the languages understandable to them at the grassroots level. Indigenous Peoples should review all the goals and targets so that they can understand the specific and relevant goals and targets to their specific contexts.

Define the purpose of engaging in the SDGs — Step 1

Identify and influence the people & organizations — Step 2

Engage effectively in the process — Step 3

Review Monitor & Feedbacks — Step 4

Figure 11: Steps for effective engagement and influence in the SDGs process

12.1.1. Step 1: Define the purpose of engaging in the SDGs

The overall purpose of Indigenous Peoples to engage in the SDGs process is to integrate the rights, recognition and aspirations of Indigenous Peoples. The specific purposes per goals are as follows:

- Reduce poverty of Indigenous Peoples from all dimensions by ensuring the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples to lands and territories (Goal 1).

- Respect and support of the traditional occupation and sustainable livelihood practices of Indigenous Peoples that includes the shifting cultivation, sustainable forest management, and pastoralism would ensure their rights to employment and hunger (Goal 2 and 8).

- Access to quality health and recognition of traditional medicinal and herbal practices of indigenous peoples would enhance the poor and limited health services of Indigenous Peoples (Goal 3).

- Ensure the equal access of Indigenous children, youths particularly girls to quality

education, including the integration of their culture and knowledge, and language in the formal curricula. For instance, mother-tongue-based curricula for those who do not understand the national language (Goal 4).

- Ensure special measures to fight against the discriminations faced by Indigenous Women and full, effective, and meaningful participation of Indigenous Women and Girls in formal and informal forums, bodies, and mechanisms since they have been experiencing discrimination, violations, and oppression for generations (Goal 5).

- Respect and recognize the rights to lands, territories, and resources including the water resources through Indigenous People's management practices and systems are important for Indigenous Peoples (Goal 6).

- Ensure Indigenous Peoples' rights to FPIC in the energy-related projects in their lands and territories. Indigenous Peoples should have equal access to renewable energy for improved livelihood (Goal 7).

- Ensure the equal rights to employment and traditional occupations of Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Women, and youths. Moreover, forced labour and child labour among Indigenous Peoples and children should be overcome (Goal 8).

- Develop a special programme and initiative for inclusive sustainable development and ensure access to natural resources and combat discrimination and economic empowerment of Indigenous Peoples (Goal 9).

- Promote equal opportunities and rights of Indigenous Peoples particularly Indigenous Women in social, economic, cultural, political, and other forums without any discrimination (Goal 10).

- Ensure FPIC of Indigenous Peoples in development and urbanization projects in their lands and territories in the rural and urban areas to avoid the impact on their cultures, lifestyles and social harmony (Goal 11).

- Secure full rights to understand the public policies and procurement practices and priorities of Indigenous Peoples and appropriate information in a language understandable to them (Goal 12).

- Develop and execute appropriate actions and supports needed for Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Women and elderly people to strengthen their adaptive capacities and resilience with effective and meaningful participation in appropriate forums at all levels (Goal 13).

- Promote and ensure Indigenous Peoples' rights to traditional marine territories, resources, and ecosystems as part of their lives, well-being and livelihoods including improved access to the markets (Goal 14).

- Ensure their rights to lands, territories, and resources for cultural and spiritual significance in addition to economic, social, and environmental values. Their collective rights to lands, territories, and resources are essential for them since they have been sustainably managing their lands, territories, and resources for generations including the associated knowledge and practices that also contributed to the low carbon sustainable development, environmental and biodiversity conservation, and addressing the climate impacts through adaptation and effective management of resources (Goal 15).

- Recognize and promote Indigenous Peoples' traditional and customary institutions and mechanisms including the governance systems that are still alive and have been practicing in conflict resolution, maintaining the peace and harmony within their lands and territories, though not fully recognized by the governments and formal institutions and governance systems. Indigenous Peoples have identical and fundamental rights to justice, security, peace, and self-determined development including their rights to citizenships (Goal 16).

- Initiate and intensify their partnerships with multiple actors and stakeholders in win-win situations for sustainable development and protection and promotion of their rights and recognition (Goal 17).

> **Box 15: "Indigenous women and men and their communities risk remaining trapped in a cycle of poverty, discrimination and exploitation" - Guy Ryder-ILO Director-General**
>
> "Indigenous Peoples' occupations, skills, and knowledge are assets that can provide a basis for the creation of enterprises and cooperatives for Indigenous Women and Men." This potential has been realized, which can reverse the poverty cycle of Indigenous Women and Men. They have been increasingly innovating and integrating their traditional livelihood practices and strategies with the new economic activities. They are responsible and have the right to improve their socio-economic conditions through vocational training and access to decent work and social protection. The ILO has been supporting them in the promotion and protection of their rights and also in consultation and their participation."
>
> *(Source: ILO, N.D. Pp 12)*

12.1.2. Step 2: Identify and influence people and organizations

12.1.2.1. Stakeholders mapping and analysis, effective engagement and partnerships

The multi-stakeholder's forum and platform would be an appropriate forum at the national level for effective monitoring and engagement in the SDGs at the national and local levels. Community-based monitoring and information systems (CBMIS) can

complement national monitoring of progress in the implementation of the SDGs as well as supporting local sustainable development plans and the implementation of special measures. Moreover, there are many stakeholders mapping and analyzing tools are available, which can be done through participatory processes. Some of these tools and approaches are Venn Diagram, multi-stakeholder process (MSP), stakeholders mapping, Social Network Analysis (SNA), Rainbow diagram, etc.

The multi-stakeholder process (MSP) facilitates the effective engagement of multi-stakeholders in the decision-making process, in which diverse actors including the government agencies, NGOs, private sectors, donors effectively participate, contribute and collaborate for a common goal. It is a participatory decision-making and information sharing tool at the country level in which the key stakeholders represent, negotiate, and decides on the issues and actions to be taken. The MSP includes simple consultations among the stakeholders to the more complex issue based on multi-stakeholder's dialogues, networking, and partnerships. For effective engagement and contribution of Indigenous Peoples and like-minded supporting organizations including the Indigenous Peoples' organizations, MSP could be effective since this process is relevant and realistic to the specific context of Indigenous Peoples. Moreover, this process shares reliable information and jointly decide what actions to be taken and leads to local ownership and sustainability. Furthermore, it builds strong alliances and partnerships for the common goal of dialogues, networking, and sharing resources[18]. The modified version of the MSP is presented in Figure 11.

Identification of the potential stakeholders

Initiate the MSP Process

Build sustainable collaboration
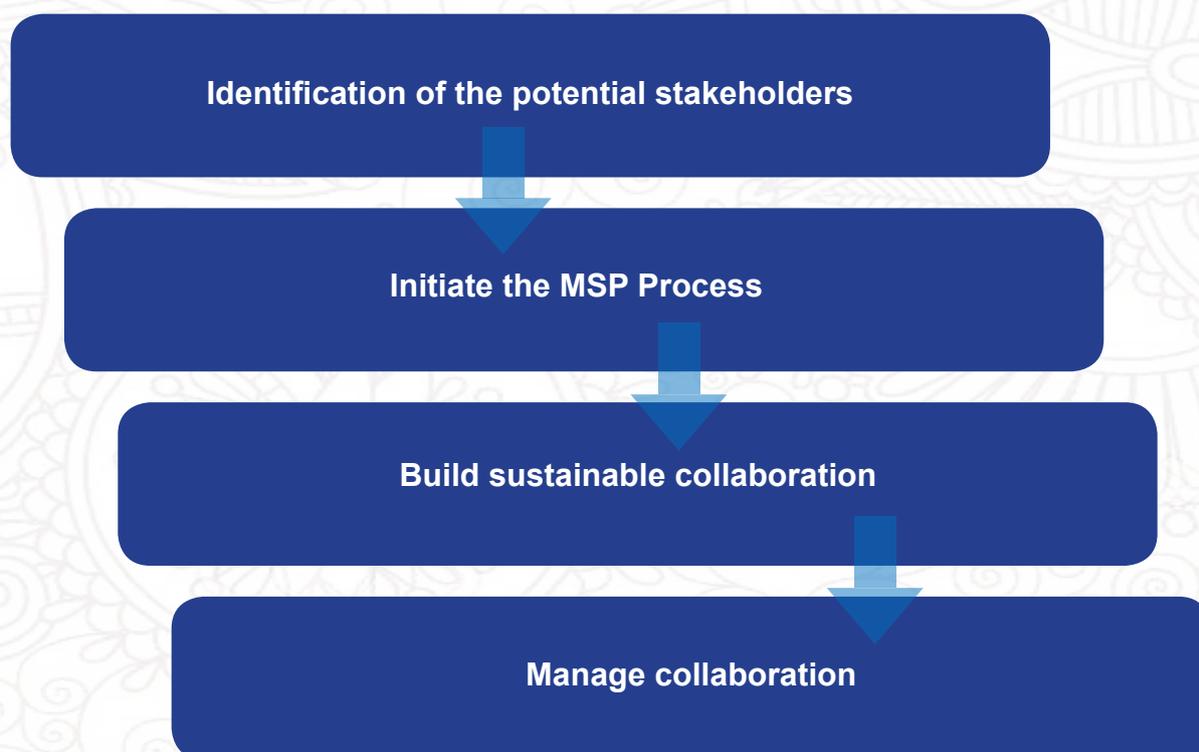
Manage collaboration

Figure 12: Multi-stakeholders process (MSP) for the SDGs among Indigenous Peoples and multi-stakeholders

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[18]*http://www.fao.org/capacity-development/resources/practical-tools/multi-stakeholder-process-es/en/ (Accessed on 21 November 2020)*

Phase 1: Identification of potential stakeholders

- Identify the Indigenous Peoples' organizations, Indigenous networks, like-minded other organizations, supporters on the particular issues and initiatives or common objectives about the SDGs

- Do an initial situation analysis (i.e. who are the key stakeholders? What are their interests, fears, expectations, issues, and power relationships? What politics are involved?)

- Analyze the commonalities and difference among the stakeholders including the particular interests of them concerning the SDGs

Phase 2: Initiate the multi-stakeholders process for SDGs

- Clarify common objectives and the scope of the initiative

- Establish a coordination team to engage and influence the SDGs as appropriate

- Select milestones and define the targets

Phase 3: Build sustainable collaboration with indigenous networks and like-minded agencies

- Build consensus on a shared vision

- Carry out consultations and agree on decision-making processes through inclusive and participatory approaches

- Build trust among the stakeholders with core values, understanding each other's concerns and interests

- Communicate outcomes to stakeholders regularly and effectively

Phase 4: Manage effective and sustainable collaboration

- Develop detailed and concrete action plans for effective engagement in the SDGs

- Explore and secure available resources and support

- Develop capacities and build on the existing talent of each stakeholder particularly focusing on capacities of the Indigenous organizations

- Establish management mechanisms (with built-in conflict-resolution mechanisms)

Source: Adapted from FAO Capacity Development (Accessed on 21 November 2020)

In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit emphasized on the importance of active participation of all sectors of society and all types of people. Thus, 9 sectors of society have been formally identified as the major groups and other stakeholders (MGoS), which was reaffirmed after 2 decades by the Rio+20 conference in the outcome document "The Future We Want". Indigenous Peoples are also included as one of the major groups and other stakeholders.

Women
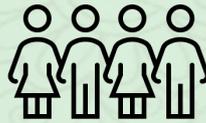
Children & Youth

Indigenous peoples

Non-Government Organizations

Local authorities

Workers & Trade Unions

Business and Industry

Scientific & Technical Community

Farmers

12.1.2.2. Advocacy Strategies and Tactics

For effective advocacy in the SDGs process, different advocacy strategies and tactics can be developed. The stakeholders mapping would be also helpful to understand the common objectives, interests of the multi-stakeholders including the government counterparts, private and civic partners. Moreover, different guides and manuals for effective advocacy and lobby including the advocacy strategies and tactics are

available, which also includes the advocacy training manual produced by AIPP that can be utilized for the Indigenous Peoples to identify the supporters and opposers, develop advocacy plans, strategies, and tactics.

(The advocacy manual is available on the AIPP's website *https://aippnet.org/a-training-manual-on-advocacy-lobbying-and-negotiation-skills-for-Indigenous-Peoples-in-climate-change-and-redd/*)

The Netcentric Campaigns have emphasized seven elements for effective advocacy and networking, which is applicable for Indigenous Peoples to effectively engage and advocate in the SDGs process. These elements must be considered to function the effective advocacy network to the fullest at the national, regional and international levels[19].

1. Social ties – Indigenous Peoples have strong social and cultural ties, solidary and trust among themselves for their rights and recognition at the local, national and international levels.

2. A communication grid – The communication grid including the communication channels among the Indigenous Peoples is required for effective communication and planning for advocacy in the SDGs process and mechanisms at the national to international levels.

3. A common language – All the Indigenous Peoples have common and specific issues and concerns. Most of them have histories, cultures, traditions, values, languages, however, they communicate in a common language and understand their issues and concerns and support themselves for their solidarity and cooperation.

4. A clear vision – Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Women, youth are often discriminated against and oppressed by the government in the policies, plans, programmes and other governance mechanisms and processes including the SDGs. Ensuring their rights, aspirations and recognition is the clear vision among the Indigenous Peoples in the world. They are asserting and advocating for their rights and recognitions.

5. Shared resources – Indigenous Peoples are rich in the knowledge, skills and practices with their shared resources and collective rights. But in the process of development and conservation defined by the states, Indigenous Peoples have faced multiple problems and issues. They must protect, promote and regain their collective rights, shared lands, territories and resources through continuous engagement and advocacy at all levels.

6. Actors – Indigenous Peoples have to identify the actors/stakeholders who will support their advocacy for their rights and recognition in general and in the SDGs process in particular.

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[19] *https://netcentriccampaigns.org/7-elements/ (Accessed on 24 December 2020)*

7. Feedback mechanisms – Indigenous Peoples have their leadership, self-selection process and feedback mechanisms, which have been continued for generations. The SDGs process and mechanism have it's mechanism of FUR and VNR process, however, limited engagement of Indigenous Peoples in these process and mechanism. Indigenous Peoples strongly need to build their capacities, skills and networks for effective advocacy in these processes and mechanisms.

Figure 13: Effective advocacy network (Source: https://netcentriccampaigns.org)

12.1.3. Step 3: Engaging Indigenous Peoples in the SDG and their contributions

Indigenous Peoples have been playing a significant role in the sustainable management of lands, territories, and natural resources. Hence effective engagement of Indigenous Peoples is crucial for successful implementation and achieving the SDGs and targets. There should be appropriate mechanisms to involve Indigenous Peoples and their self-selected representee organizations in the decision-making processes and ensure the principle of FPIC as enshrined in the international instruments (IFAD, 2019). Indigenous peoples' engagement in the process needs to build favorable partnerships jointly among Indigenous Peoples, government and supporting agencies including the UN agencies, civil society groups, researchers, and academic institutions by recognizing and respecting the rights and aspirations of Indigenous Peoples and their self-determined development.

Indigenous Peoples have specific, and important contributions to sustainable resource management and development for generations, despite the challenges they have faced in terms of geopolitical, socio-economic, and environmental stresses and shocks. Their specific roles and contributions concerning the SDGs are as follows (adapted from ILO, N.D.):

- Promoting sustainable management and use of lands, territories, and resources including forests or marine resources

- Sustaining and promoting efficient agricultural practices and food security including conservation and sustainable use of unique and important agro-biodiversity

- Achieving effective climate change mitigation and adaptation to build resilient communities as the change agents through the use of traditional knowledge and practices

- Strengthening sustainable livelihood practices, generating environment-friendly and climate-resilient innovations, jobs, and entrepreneurship

- Realizing gender equity and equality with improved participation of women in natural resources management and related decisions

- Continuing the environmental stewardships and guardians for forests and nature through maintaining productivity and economic growth

- Achieving peaceful and stable societies with inclusive, self-determined and holistic development

- Creating strong monitoring and accountability mechanisms to ensure no one is left behind

- Improving knowledge-sharing and collaboration to implement the SDGs.

12.1.4. Step 4: Review, monitor and feedback identification, communication, and reporting the gaps from Indigenous Perspectives

In addition to all the stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples have to be also responsible for reviewing, monitoring the achievement of the SDGs and contribute to identification, communication and reporting the feedbacks from their levels of understanding. However, most of the documents, guides, manuals, and information related to the SDGs are available in English and to some extent in the national languages, whereas most of the Indigenous Peoples speak their Indigenous languages and dialects. Very few of such information are available in the local and Indigenous languages and also presented in the forms understandable to the Indigenous communities, Indigenous

women and Indigenous Persons/Women with disabilities at the grassroots, which creates big gaps in understanding, implementing and contributing to the SDGs, targets, and indicators due to lack of effective communication means and channels, which ultimately affects IPs' contributions and reporting on the SDGs implementation.

Many Indigenous leaders at the national level are also not fully acquainted with the processes and mechanisms of the SDGs, thus it can be assumed that it must be difficult to understand and follow the SDGs process for the Indigenous Peoples at the grassroots level. That is why, the information should be provided in forms understandable to the people on the ground such as pictures, figures, illustrations, and specific cases or examples. The regular capacity building activities and awareness-raising materials should be disseminated in the printed forms and also in the broadcasted media. For instance, Indigenous Television in Nepal sometimes invites SDG experts and Indigenous Peoples' experts to talk on specific topics such as SDGs in its programmes.

12.2. Advocacy plan for integrating the Indigenous Peoples' issues and concerns in the proper platform through IPMG for SD

"After four years of SDG implementation, Indigenous Peoples across the globe are not just left behind but pushed further behind. This is demonstrated by the continuing widespread grabbing of Indigenous Peoples' lands and resources, criminalization, increasing poverty and hunger, loss of livelihood, destruction of cultural heritage, forest degradation, loss of biodiversity, conflicts on resource-use and development, increased violence against Indigenous Women and girls, rising inequality and lack of access to justice, among others." (IPMG, 2020, Pp 2)

This text has been is quoted from the executive summary of the thematic report for the HLPF on agenda 2030 for sustainable development 2020 by the IPMG for sustainable development, which clearly stated that Indigenous Peoples are pushed further behind after four years of implementation of SDGs. However, Indigenous Peoples are continuing their practice of sustainable development in their lands and territories. It is very critical for Indigenous Peoples to effectively advocate and sustained engagement in the process for positive and successful implementation of SDGs at the national, regional, and global levels. IPMG for SD is one of the nine recognized Major Groups that can officially participate in the SDG processes at the global level. It is also the main mechanism for indigenous peoples' engagement, coordination, and planning for their rights as affirmed by the UNDRIP and to ensure their full and effective participation in the development, implementation, monitoring, and review process of action plans and programmes on sustainable development at all levels[20].

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[20]*https://indigenouspeoples-sdg.org/index.php/english/who-we-are/about-the-ipmg*

The IPMG is officially coordinated by the Indigenous Peoples International Centre for Policy Research and Education (which is popularly known as Tebtebba Foundation internationally) and International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) as the Indigenous Peoples – Organizing Partners (IP-OPs) officially accredited by the UNDESA. Moreover, IPMG has a global coordinating committee (GCC) as a mechanism for global coordination with 7 regional focal persons and focal organizations and representatives of Indigenous Women and youth and two co-convenors. It has opened up for Indigenous Peoples' organizations to become affiliate members of IPMG. There are 50 such affiliate members as of June 2017. IPMG is generating all forms of solidarity support and assistance to IPs concerning SD. All genuine issues, concerns, information sharing, feedback, and recommendations with concrete evidence can be forwarded to the global IP-OPs for considerations on the proposals and position papers to be submitted by IPMGs to the SDGs and post-2015 development agenda processes (ibid).

(Details of IPMG can be accessed on its official website https://indigenouspeoples-sdg.org)

12.3. Key actions to be taken by Indigenous Peoples

- Build the skills and capacities of the Indigenous Peoples for effective and sustained engagement. The information materials and training sessions may be produced and organized respectively with illustrations, or pictures in the simpler form in the national and local languages understandable to them

- Be active and clever to understand the SDGs mechanism and implementation process, and action plan and review process at the national, regional, and international levels

- Involve and carry out research and document the data, specific cases, good practices related to SDGs, and targets which can be later utilized as evidence for advocacy and awareness-raising. To address the issue of data gaps, the Indigenous Navigator developed and executed by AIPP in partnership with Tebtebba, IWGIA, FPP, and other partners and the Community-based Monitoring and Information System (CBMIS) are effective and appropriate at the national, subnational, and local levels. These tools particularly Indigenous Navigator provide tools, questionnaires, and indicators for monitoring (AIPP, 2017).

(Which can be accessed and utilized through the website http://www.indigenousnavigator.org/statistics/)

- Implementation of the UNDRIP

- Outcomes of WCIP

- Essential aspects of the SDGs

- Coordinate and build the network, alliances, and partnerships among Indigenous Peoples and the like-minded multi-stakeholders at the national level to effectively engage, consult and contribute to the SDGs implementation process

- Coordinate, engage, negotiate and advocate through alliances and networks at the national level particularly with the public, private and civic groups including the governments, major groups, UN agencies, and other development partners to support indigenous peoples' rights

- Collaborate with the national planning commission and national statistical offices for disaggregated data collection particularly focusing on national censuses and surveys periodically

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Box 17: Indigenous Peoples in the periodic plan in Nepal

The 15th periodic plan (2019/20 – 2023/24) has been approved by the Government of Nepal (GoN), which has included some plans and programmes for Indigenous Peoples recommended by the Lawyer's Association for Human Rights of Nepal's Indigenous Peoples (LAHURNIP) during the drafting of the plan. It has emphasized on organization and operationalization of the Special, Protected, and Autonomous areas as per the constitution and the local-level operational act. It has emphasized the surveys and mapping of the areas which have not been surveyed and mapped before and bringing them under land administration systems for protection through detailed documentation under the governmental, public community, and Guthi (Trust) lands. It, further, emphasizes the surveys for documentation and duly registration of biodiversity and associated knowledge, skills, practices and socio-cultural systems and intellectual property of Indigenous nationalities and local communities at the local level. It also highlights the importance of implementation and institutionalization of a special programme to protect the rights and recognition of marginalized and endangered Peoples such as the Raute, Kusunda, Chepang, Rajbansi, Chamar, Musahar, Vadi, Raji, etc. All these efforts are positive actions of the government, which needs to be effectively implemented in the ground aligning with the UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169, through the effective and meaningful participation and representation of Indigenous Peoples including consultations in order to obtain FPIC. If it is not ensured, it could be a potential threat to the Indigenous Peoples who have been living in the areas for generations.

(Source: IWGIA 2020, Pp 308

- Actively engage in the national consultation and review process and provide appropriate feedback, statements, and position papers

- Collaborate with the journalists, media particularly indigenous media and affiliated media to broadcast the Indigenous Peoples' issues and concerns on the SDGs in particular and development processes and mechanisms in general

- Engage with the human rights monitoring mechanisms at the national and international levels with the appropriate review, feedback, and recommendations to improve human rights situations of Indigenous Peoples and submit the appropriate report to the human rights treaty bodies including preparation of shadow report, Universal Periodic Review and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples

- Establish effective mechanisms at regional and international levels to monitor IPs human rights including Indigenous Women, Persons with Disabilities, Youths and their meaningful representations in planning and implementation processes of SDGs at the national and local levels

- Strengthen and empower national level and local level institutions to address the issues of IPS rights.

- Strengthen the effective IPMG mechanisms at the national and regional levels through affiliated members and regional focal persons and co-convenors.

13. Conclusion

Many Indigenous Peoples and their organizations, customary institutions are still active in the Indigenous lands and territories managing the resources sustainably. Despite many geo-political, socio-economic, and other challenges and obstacles, they have been proactively and successfully managing their lands and resources and also maintaining cultural integrity. The 2030 agenda for sustainable development is an important opportunity for Indigenous Peoples to bring their issues, concerns, and demand for their rights and recognition in appropriate forums. However, there are huge gaps in understanding the SDGs, targets, indicators, and related mechanisms between Indigenous Peoples at the grassroots and Indigenous experts at the national and regional/international levels, which is mainly due to limited information in the national and local languages understandable to the Indigenous Peoples at the grassroots level.

In the present context of COVID-19 pandemics reports have already indicated drastic reduction in the economic activities, trade, tourism, transport, industry and other services resulting in dramatic losses in income across the sectors. Poverty

is likely to be increased together with its cascading impacts on health, education, employment opportunities, and other economic activities. This will have substantive negative impacts on the achievement of the SDGs, including inequality. Some country reports have shown good progress in poverty reduction and some of the human development-related goals such as education, gender equality and empowerment, and biodiversity, but from the point of view of Indigenous Peoples, their status has been rigorously going down. The impacts of COVID pandemic have been pushing into more critical conditions. A strong network among Indigenous Peoples has to be developed and strengthen existing to follow up the process of SDGs. Global coalitions, social movements, and good relationships with the CSOs and grassroots customary institutions have to be reinforced. Regular monitoring and follow the review process by the indigenous peoples on SDGs implementation should be regular and updated.

Many Indigenous experts, Indigenous leaders, project implementers have mentioned that Indigenous Peoples are not fully aware of the whole SDG process and are not involved in the SDG implementation mechanisms at the local and national levels. As per the AIPP's partners, the SDG process is very complicated even the states are not clear on how to achieve 17 goals and targets. The implementation process is very slow with limited consultation mechanisms and the states are continuing the discrimination and exclusion in the whole process. The CSOs and IPOs are hardly being consulted in the national-level consultation with the technical experts to bring their voices and observations. Thus, Indigenous Peoples' feedbacks and recommendations are often sidelined and not integrated into the process. As Indigenous Peoples' Organizations, and Indigenous Women organizations, they have never been invited by the government in the SDG planning and implementation process.

To minimize the gaps, the IPMG has to establish a strong network from global to local levels and create a space to work closely with IPOs at the national and grassroots level on SDG monitoring and following up the review process. Almost all goals are interlinked with Indigenous Peoples' issues and concerns, however, the SDGs have not fully and effectively addressed Indigenous Peoples' rights and aspirations in all the goals and targets. The 2030 agenda for SD itself follows inclusive and human rights-based mechanisms and a holistic approach, which is an opportunity for the Indigenous Peoples to effectively and meaningfully engage in the SDGs. Regarding the cultural and spiritual aspects different experts have different opinions. The assumption of being integrated into the social pillar is somehow satisfactory.

Name list of the People interviewed

SN	Country	Organization Name	Name of the Persons Interviewed
1.	Philippines	BAI Indigenous Women's Network	Kakay Tolentino
2.	Thailand	Network of Indigenous Peoples in Thailand (NIPT)	Srikaew Kunteng
3.	Bangladesh	Kapaeeng Foundation	Pallab Chakma
4.	Cambodia	Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization (CIPO)	Hean Bunhieng
5.	Nepal	Lawyers Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples (LAHURNIP)	Manoj Aathpahariya
6.	Philippines	Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG)	Joan Carling
7.	Copenhagen	Danish Institute for Human Rights	Birgitte Feiring
8.	Geneva	International Labour Organization	Gabriela Balvedi Pimentel
9.	Myanmar	Indigenous Peoples Partnership (IPP)	Ke Jung
10.	Thailand	Indigenous Peoples Foundation for Education and Environment (IPF)	Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri
11.	Nepal	Center for Indigenous People's Research and Development (CIPRED)	Pasang Dolma Sherpa
12.	Copenhagen	International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)	Lola Garcia-Alix
13.	Nepal	Nepal Indigenous Disabled Association (NIDA)	Pratima Gurung

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AIPP at a glance

The Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) is a regional organization founded in 1988 by Indigenous Peoples' movements as a platform for solidarity and cooperation. AIPP is actively promoting and defending Indigenous Peoples' rights and human rights, sustainable development and management of resources and environment protection. Through the years, AIPP has developed its expertise on grassroots capacity building, advocacy and networking from local to global levels and strengthening partnerships with Indigenous organizations, support NGOs, UN agencies and other institutions. At present, AIPP has 48 members from 14 countries in Asia with 18 Indigenous Peoples' national alliances/networks and 30 local and sub-national organizations, 6 indigenous women's organisations, 4 indigenous youth organizations, and 1 Indigenous persons with disabilities organization.

Through our Indigenous Women (IW) programme, AIPP aims to empower indigenous women through networking, education and capacity building activities with the ove all goal for indigenous women to assert, promote and protect their rights as women and as Indigenous Peoples.

Our Vision

Indigenous Peoples in Asia are living with dignity and fully exercising their rights, distinct cultures and identity, and enhancing their sustainable management systems on lands, territories and resources for their own future and development in an environment of peace, justice and equality.
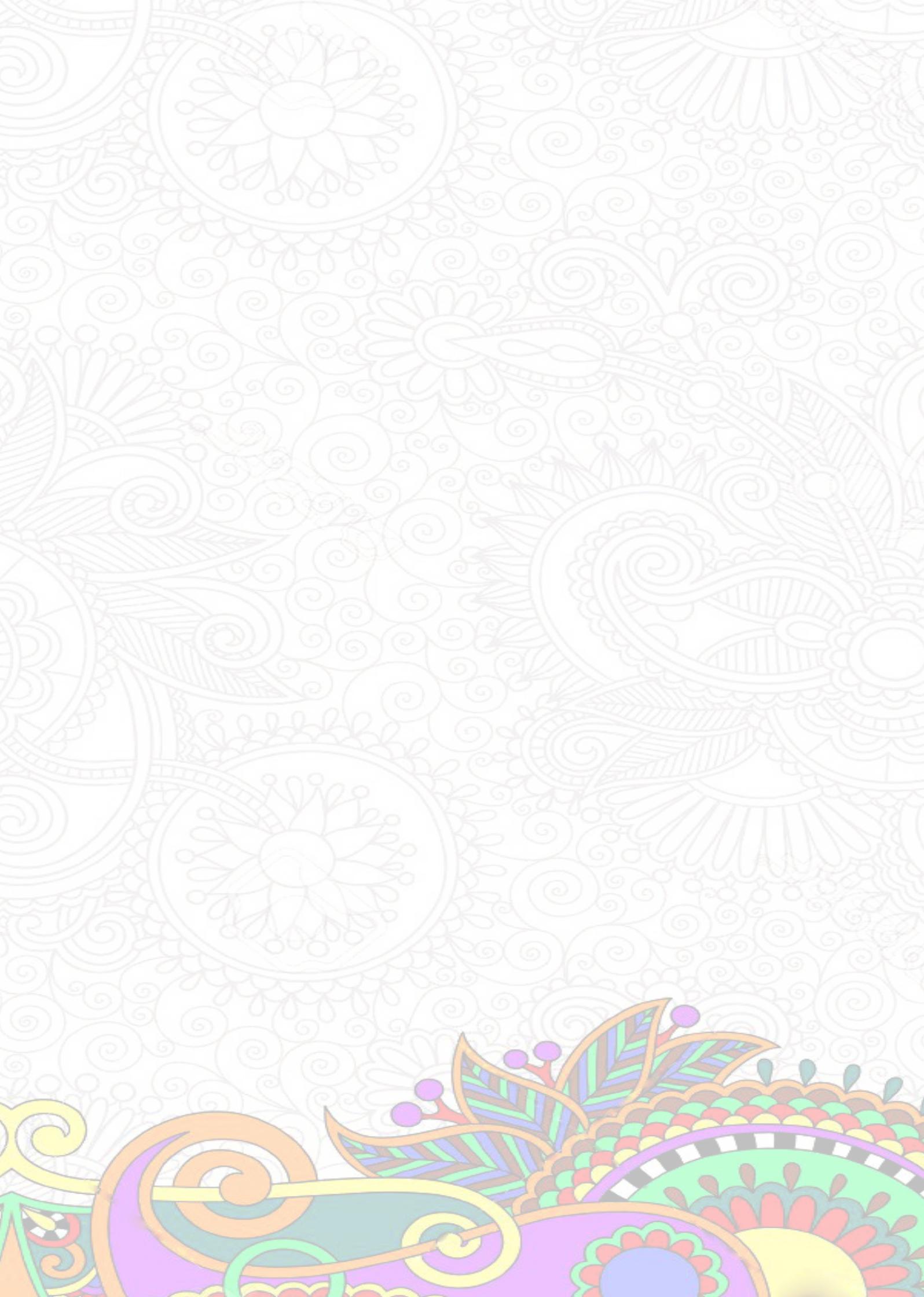
Our Mission

AIPP strengthen the solidarity, cooperation and capacities of Indigenous Peoples in Asia to promote and protect their rights, cultures and identities, and their sustainable resource management system for their development and self-determination.

AIPP Programmes

Human Rights Campaign and Policy Advocacy
Communication and Development
Regional Capacity Building
Environment
Indigenous Women

AIPP is accredited as an NGO in special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and as observer organizations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

AIPP is also a member of International Land Coalition (ILC), Global Environment Facility (GEF) NGO Network, International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net) and an affiliated network of the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI).

Sustainable Development Goals and Indigeneity:
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