

Statement of Indigenous Peoples to UNCSD14 High-Level Segment

Distinguished Delegates:

UNCSD 14 provides a space for us to reflect and to review our performance in the thematic areas of climate, atmospheric pollution, sustainable energy and industrial development. Indigenous Peoples share the following observations, derived from meetings of indigenous peoples around the world, and guided by abiding cultural and ecological values:

1. The precautionary principle requires a slow-down and moratorium on large-scale energy and extractive projects whose impacts on indigenous lands are devastating. I will respect our time constraints by not mentioning all these projects around the world. The ecological footprints of nuclear energy and large dams are unacceptably large, and these impacts are disproportionately borne by indigenous peoples, women, poor people and future generations. The extractive industries must be downsized, as we move towards sustainability of production and consumption.

2. Governments must reverse the negative impacts of economic globalization on indigenous peoples by prioritizing local Agenda 21 solutions- including sustainable agriculture, community development initiatives, and local enterprises. In addition, governments must set high standards for corporate accountability through strong regulatory frameworks and mechanisms, in order to safeguard communities from the negative impacts of corporate investments and projects. Local impoverishment and environmental degradation are the legacy of conventional economic growth and industrial resource development, which transfer resources and wealth from indigenous peoples and local communities to the private sector.

3. Given the scarcity of financial resources for sustainable energy and new renewable options - social equity requires that financial support is best directed towards decentralized and appropriate technologies which can immediately address the needs of the poor and developing countries, while promoting self-reliance.

4 Global warming affects indigenous peoples through melting ice in the Arctic; through drought and desertification in Africa; rising sea waters in small island states, and extreme weather conditions across the globe. Indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge of lands and local conditions is a

vital contribution towards Climate Impact Assessments, as well as providing valuable input towards identifying measures for climate change adaptation and mitigation. Lessons can be learned from the Arctic Council's partnership with indigenous peoples in carrying out the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment.

5. Actions undertaken to address climate change must not deepen social and environmental injustice. We oppose large-scale plantations for bio-fuels or CDM projects for carbon sequestration which lead to expropriation of indigenous lands, displacement of local communities, or loss of biological diversity.

6. Sustainable development must be participatory in planning and implementation. Peoples around the world are demanding strong governmental leadership in the promulgation of national and local programs for the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation with full and effective local government participation and including indigenous peoples and civil society. It is our experience that indigenous peoples are marginalized in national plans and strategies, including Poverty Reduction Strategies and programs, MDG plans and National Sustainable Development Plans.

7. Finally, we underline that National Sustainable Development Plans must be informed and guided by education for sustainable development, ecological ethics and fundamental cultural and spiritual values.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, Indigenous Peoples thank you for your attention.