

Ensuring Fulfillment of Indigenous Peoples' Rights in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

August 9-11, 2017

Harnessing Resources and Knowledge for Indigenous Peoples' Development

Preamble

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the 20th year of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (RA 8371), we, 103 indigenous men, women and youth from 39 indigenous peoples' groups from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao have gathered at the University of the Philippines, Quezon City from August 8-10, 2017 to celebrate the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

We are indigenous peoples with collective rights to our lands, territories and resources as enshrined in the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Our intrinsic relationship to our lands, territories and resources has shaped our knowledge systems, identities, culture, spirituality and informed our worldview that is integrated and holistic.

We reiterate that we have contributed and continue to contribute to sustainable development as stewards of the remaining biological and cultural diversity, sustained by our indigenous knowledge and customary governance on resource use and management, practices and innovations.

We assert that sustainable development is underpinned by recognition, protection and fulfillment of indigenous peoples' rights and self-determined development.

However, 20 years since the adoption of the IPRA, and ten years after the ratification of the UNDRIP, we continue to lose our lands, territories and resources, are unable to fully access basic social services, are subjected to various forms of human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings and displacements, threats to our leaders and other atrocities perpetrated by government and paramilitary forces, rebels and other armed groups remain unresolved, as a result of our experiences of historical discrimination and marginalization.

We, indigenous peoples are victims of war and of peace as we are unwilling hosts to armed conflicts that are not ours and yet, we have never been part of the peace negotiations. This is aggravated by the non-recognition and non-respect of our traditional conflict resolution processes and systems and the declaration of Martial law in Mindanao. All of these conflicts are directly linked to counter-insurgency operations and the encroachment of mining companies, agri-business corporations and large hydro-electric dams among others.

Many national policies and programs, which are incoherent and culturally inappropriate, continue to worsen our already difficult situations. While there are laws and programs with good intentions, there remains a gap in effective implementation on the ground. Our right to Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is continuously manipulated, violated and undermined. The Certificate of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADT) process is tedious, expensive, complicated and problematic and does not guarantee land tenure security.

Based on the current situation of our IP communities, our priorities and proposed strategies with necessary support, are presented below based on thematic areas, as follows:

1. Peace and Justice

Peace is a precondition for our development and peace can only be achieved with our full and effective participation in the peace process as rights holders. Genuine peace may only be achieved when it is grounded on human rights. We organized ourselves to be able to meaningfully engage as an independent voice and observer for peace negotiation panel. We call for the government to recognize the IP- created peace panel and mainstream it into the process.

We call for the IPRA to be reflected in the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) and inclusion of IP-selected representatives on the BTC.

We call for the withdrawal of all armed groups from our communities and fully support the call for an immediate and binding ceasefire between the government and revolutionary groups. We demand the demilitarization of our communities and removal of all military camps and detachments therein.

Stop extrajudicial killings of IPs asserting the right to oppose development projects that lead to the deprivation of lands and resources. We demand justice and indemnification to all victims.

We call for the recognition and support for the strengthening of our customary governance, justice systems and traditional peace processes and mechanisms.

2. Poverty and Hunger

Ensure our land tenure security and review pending applications and facilitate the issuance of all legitimate CADT applications.

We call for support to:

- Recognition and strengthening of traditional livelihoods and the role of women as knowledge holders;

- Capacity building, technical and financial support to community managed sustainable agriculture programs to ensure food security;
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- Provision of support for the promotion of traditional agricultural crops and livestock.

Stop entry, expansion and rewarding of large-scale agribusiness in indigenous peoples' ancestral domains.

Stop promotion and use of genetically-modified organisms and inorganic inputs.

3. Provision of Basic Services

Education

Establish public pre-schools to senior high schools in indigenous communities and provide sufficient facilities and indigenous teachers.

Ensure effective implementation of Indigenous Peoples Education (IPED):

- Strengthen participation of IP elders in the IPED
- Designate indigenous teachers as IPED teachers and coordinators.

Support community-initiated IP schools including Schools of Living Traditions (SLT) and stop threatening and branding them as rebel supporters.

Provide indigenous schools equal access to the Special Educational Fund (SEF) and other funding supports. Ensure and fast track the release and implementation of allocated budget for classrooms and other educational facilities.

Intensify the review of all existing curriculum and textbooks to correct discriminatory content and misrepresentation of indigenous peoples in consultation with local IP knowledge holders and experts.

Provide support for volunteer and contractual IPED teachers for the Licensure Examination of Teachers (LET) review.

Eliminate *palakasan* system in granting scholarships (NCIP) and hiring of teachers.

Provide scholarship grants to deserving indigenous students and review requirements for easier access.

Legislate the Magna Carta of Indigenous Teachers:

- Guidelines to consider indigenous teachers who have served for at least five years will be exempted from the Licensure Examination for Teachers.
- Ensure tenurial security of LET passer IP teachers who volunteered for at least two years.

Health, Nutrition and Sanitation

Establish health and birthing clinics in the community with health personnel who would stay in the clinic all the time and not on a per schedule basis.

DOH to recognize traditional birth attendants, accredit and provide them necessary skills and training as appropriate and where needed.

Review and strengthen the IP elements of the *Maternal Neonatal and Child Health and Nutrition*.

We demand the local governments to repeal their no-home-birthing ordinances.

Provide support for building potable water systems to indigenous communities and support services for their maintenance.

Recognition and strengthen the role of traditional healers and the revitalization and protection against bio-piracy of traditional medicines.

4. Economic growth and productive employment/ infrastructure and innovations

Recognition and strengthening of traditional livelihoods, occupations and innovations. Support harnessing non-timber forest products as additional source of income through simplifying permit process and reducing cost.

Provide support for the construction of farm-to-market roads, free irrigation systems, other agricultural facilities and other support services, including due compensation for damages negotiated among concerned parties, provision of electricity and information technology.

Support for small-scale, community owned and managed renewable energy systems and projects. Provide support for the rehabilitation of damaged energy facilities.

Provide alternative and appropriate source of livelihood and related capacity building activities for indigenous peoples.

5. Environmental goals

We support the efforts of the government to stop mining and other destructive operations and expansions which have adverse social, cultural and environmental impacts and its call for audits of mining companies, including logging and agribusiness.

Declare no-go zone for large-scale mining in the ancestral domains of indigenous peoples.

Uphold the closure and suspension orders issued by the DENR against 28 mining companies.

Recognition, strengthening and support of traditional territorial management and protection systems (e.g community-appointed indigenous forest guards), and community protocols.

Cancel all existing Integrated Forest Management Agreement(IFMA) concession and stop renewal of their contracts. Revert all the lands to the IPs concerned.

Ensure genuine Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process and ensure FPIC in all projects.

Ensure participation of IPs in environmental, cultural and social impact assessments of all projects including in the development of policies and benefit –sharing schemes affecting them.

Recognize and support indigenous peoples' community based monitoring and information systems (CBMIS).

Recognize and support indigenous peoples' climate change adaptation and mitigation actions and disaster risk reduction and management measures.

Provide legal, technical and financial assistance to address biodiversity and ecosystem concerns and climate change impacts.

6. Women and Children

Full implementation of the Republic Act 9262 (Anti-VAWC), Republic Act 7610 ("*Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act.*"), the Magna Carta of Women and similar laws.

Recognize and support customary law and practices promoting the rights of indigenous women and children.

Ensure representation of indigenous women and youth in local decision-making bodies (e.g. local development council, IPMR, etc.) and other processes.

Full implementation of the Gender and Development (GAD) policy, capacitate women to access and ensure a dedicated GAD fund for indigenous women.

Provide capacity-building activities for indigenous youth and children on their rights.

Provide sustainable support for indigenous women's livelihood initiatives.

Develop measures to comprehensively address the Concluding Observations of the

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in its 64th Session to the Philippine's combined 7th and 8th report and allocate resources for its full and effective implementation. These should be done at least in consultation with and in partnership with indigenous women and their communities.

7. Means of implementation: support needed in terms of finance, technology and innovations, and capacity building

Full and effective implementation of IPRA.

Strengthen the capacity of NCIP to be able to respond effectively to IP concerns.

Integrate the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development Protection Plan (ADSDPP) into the Barangay, Municipal and Provincial Development plans and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), and provide support for their implementation.

Review the CALT/ CADT process and evaluate implementation of the 2012 FPIC guidelines.

Support capacity building activities of IPs for them to be able to understand their rights especially on the FPIC.

Institutionalize information disclosure on relevant resources and ensure full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the budgeting and finance monitoring processes.

Provide direct access by indigenous peoples to funds, contracts and services (e.g National Greening Program, People's Survival Fund, IP Fund, Disaster Risk Reduction Fund, among others).

Adopt policies that ensure the rights of indigenous peoples in all projects on climate change change mitigation and adaptation.

We welcome and endorse the draft Indigenous Peoples Policy of the Green Climate Fund and we reiterate the call for its adoption on the 18th meeting of the GCF board on October 2017.

Ensure full implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) selection guidelines and revoke appointments through manipulation of the selection process.

Support the efforts towards ratification of ILO 169 in the Philippines.

Resolved to call for the government to invite the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for an official mission in the Philippines.

The respect, protection and fulfillment of our rights are key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. For us indigenous peoples, there is no development without genuine peace and justice!