

Agenda Item 5: Review of Regional Progress and Opportunities for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Statement delivered by: Adrian Lasimbang (TONIBUNG)  
on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples

I'm Adrian Lasimbang from representing the Indigenous Peoples Constituency of the APRCEM.

Based on the latest ESCAP Review Report, no country in the Asia-Pacific is on track to achieve all the SDGs by 2030. In relation to this, Indigenous Peoples in the region STILL remain not only furthest behind in terms of access to affordable energy and clean water and sanitation, among others, but also continue to suffer from land grabbing, rising inequalities, loss and damage as a result of climate change, forest degradation, loss of biodiversity, conflicts on resource-use, and lack of access to justice and basic social services.

Indigenous Peoples play a critical role in the achievement of sustainable development. On this, Indigenous Peoples as rights-holders, actors and partners in development must be recognized including the full recognition, respect, and protection of our collective rights as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Indigenous Peoples, including indigenous women, youth, and persons with disabilities among others, must be able to meaningfully engage and participate in processes related to SDGs at all levels. Systemic barriers causing inequality and discrimination and access to remedy for Indigenous Peoples needs to be addressed.

The Sustainable Development Goals will not be achieved if States continue to deny our rights and make indigenous peoples invisible.