

## **Indigenous Peoples Proposals: Parts III, IV and V of the Zero Draft**

**Submitted by Tebtebba – Indigenous Peoples’ International Centre for Policy Research and Education, and the Asian Indigenous Peoples’ Pact (AIPP)**

III. Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

A. Framing the context of the green economy, challenges and opportunities

The green economy framework must embrace economic diversity, as well as the specific realities of different countries and different peoples. Therefore all references to the Green Economy in the Zero Draft must be changed to green economies. Operationalization of green economies, requires respect for diversity, and a combined application of human rights-based, ecosystems-based and knowledge-based approaches.

Diverse local economies are critical components of resilient ecosystems and green economies, promoting sustainable local livelihoods, community solidarity and poverty eradication. These longstanding green economies, also called development with identity and Indigenous Peoples’ Self-determined Development, are indigenous peoples’ vital contributions to 21st century green economies. For 99% of human history and development, local economies have provided these multiple values, and are as important as ever, in the light of the contemporary multiple crises. The globalized, fossil fuel-based industrial economy, dominant for the 200 years- less than .01% of human history - has brought in its wake the crises of environment, development and climate change. Green economies comprise the existing diversity of sustainable local economies, contemporary transition town initiatives, and transformed industrial sectors away from the carbon-intensive global model of economy and trade.

Safeguard the lands, territories and resources, and associated customary management and sustainable use systems of Indigenous Peoples, small producers and local communities as essential contributions to sustainable development.

The renewed political commitment to sustainable development must empower and benefit the poor. Overemphasis and focus on the macro-economy without due regard and targeted support for diverse local economies will not deliver on poverty eradication goals.

Beyond income, indigenous peoples and the poor, need to have secure rights over their lands, territories and resources and to exercise their customary resource management and sustainable use systems, which are their basic sources of wealth and well-being.

Public policy must prioritise support for building resilient local economies and ecosystems and the self-development efforts of Indigenous Peoples, including strong government regulation to protect local economies from predatory investments.

Governments must address the intensifying land and natural resource conflicts arising from resource extractive industries – oil, gas and mining, as well as logging and export-oriented forestry and agriculture – which transfer wealth away from local peoples, while degrading ecosystems and creating poverty. Rio+20 must signal the need for strong international standards for corporate accountability addressing the social, cultural and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

Moreover, operationalization of green economies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, requires integration and coherence with the UN's human rights-based approach to development, as well as the ecosystems-based approach of the UN multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

Indigenous and traditional knowledge are distinct and special contributions to 21st century learning and action.

In addition, knowledge-based approaches and tool kits to deal with 21st century challenges, must embrace the full diversity of knowledge systems, including indigenous and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, as complementary to modern science and technology. References in the Zero draft to learning and knowledge-sharing platforms must embrace indigenous and local knowledge, and diverse knowledge systems. They are equally important as science for the purposes of assessment processes, monitoring and defining indicators for sustainable development.

#### IV. Institutional framework for sustainable development

##### Recognition of culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development

Rio + 20 must embrace a 4th pillar of sustainable development – the ethical and moral values needed to nurture and care for the Earth. This cultural pillar encompasses the cultural and spiritual traditions of humanity, renewed in the light of 21st century challenges. Education for sustainable development, provides its basic foundation.

Our Earth-changing age - the Anthropocene – must bring forth the necessary cultural transformations to address global systemic change. Rio + 20 must engender a deep love and moral responsibility towards Mother Earth and her intrinsic life-giving values, transcending conceptions of ecosystem services for human well-being, towards a reverence for the sacredness of life.

Life in harmony with nature is the vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, which can only be realised through a culturally transformed vision of sustainable development, combined with the political will needed to address the urgent crises.

Culture is a distinct pillar, as well as underpinning and cross-cutting the other three pillars of sustainable development. Its importance is acknowledged in Paragraph 16 of the Zero Draft which must be included in the Vision of Rio + 20 and strengthened in the operational sections of the Outcome document. The institutional framework for sustainable development must incorporate the importance of culture, and identify mechanisms to address this pillar.

### Sustainable Development Council

The establishment of a Sustainable Development Council (SDC) under the UN General Assembly opens the possibility of strengthened UN partnership with peoples, major groups and civil society at higher levels of the United Nations. New institutional arrangements must signal real transformations, renewed political and fresh approaches in the UN framework towards sustainable development, as embodied in partnership mechanisms with non-State actors, and as envisioned in the registry of voluntary commitments as an important outcome of Rio+20. Therefore, the full and effective participation of peoples, including indigenous people, major groups and civil society must be institutionalized under the Sustainable Development Council, through permanent speaking rights for the self-selected representatives of these non-State actors in the plenary sessions of the SDC.

The distinctive character of the SDC, compared to the ECOSOC, is its partnership focus between United Nations member-states and all its non-State partners.

The UN Human Rights Council's study on appropriate mechanisms to ensure full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in the UN (Res ...) will greatly contribute towards further identifying institutional mechanisms in this regard.

### UNEP, must embrace the cultural and spiritual values of Biodiversity

UNEP, as a strengthened UN specialized agency on the environment, must provide the institutional support for the application of ecosystem-based approaches to implementing sustainable development, and the transformative changes in human behaviour towards the environment identified under its Foresight Process. UNEP needs more robust mechanisms for the participation of peoples, major groups and civil society, consistent with those adopted by the SDC, and the human rights-based approach to development of the UN family. Indigenous Peoples call for a strong UNEP Policy on Indigenous Peoples to support implementation of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity (2011-2020), agreements under the UNFCCC, including REDD+, and international agreements on Chemicals, Wastes and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

#### IV. Institutional Framework for Action and Follow-up

The forthcoming World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014, (UN Resolution...), provides an occasion for renewing State commitments on Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Development, in partnership with Indigenous Peoples. Such commitments are a fitting resolution and closing for the 2nd UN Decade for World's Indigenous Peoples (2005-2014). The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues together with the UN Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, and constitute firm institutional bases for follow-up action on Rio+20 outcomes for indigenous peoples.

Specific text proposals are made as tracked changes in the Zero Draft.