

Additional Statement of Indigenous Peoples on the Green Economy
18 May 2010

Thank you Mr. Co-Chair. In light of the discussions related to the possible risks of the green economy I would like to raise some concerns of indigenous peoples. In the design and promotion of the green economy, we should be mindful of its potential human rights implications. I would like to give an example of this. Renewable energy development is one aspect of the green economy. We are aware that big hydroelectric dams and nuclear power plants are considered clean and renewable energy. Indigenous peoples do not believe that these should be part of the renewable energy package. We are seriously concerned because of the past and continuing human rights violations related to dam building, mining of uranium for nuclear power plants and the dumping of radioactive waste in indigenous peoples' territories. In addition, the increase in biofuel production has seen the expansion of oil palm, sugar cane and jatropha monoculture plantations which have led to land grabs of indigenous peoples' territories, deforestation and destruction of indigenous peoples' traditional livelihoods.

Thus, if the human rights-based approach and the ecosystems approach to development do not underpin the green economy we can end up in a situation where rights of indigenous peoples will be further sacrificed at the altar of the green economy and the destruction of ecosystems which they have conserved at the risk of life and limb will be exacerbated.

We therefore call on the States, the UN and the other major groups to ensure that the human rights based approach to development and the ecosystems approach are affirmed as the relevant approaches for sustainable development and the green economy.

Thank you Co-chair.