Indigenous peoples experience discrimination and marginalization primarily due to their ethnicity. These issues of exclusion and neglect are heightened for indigenous women, disabled, illiterate, those living far below poverty line, or any other social category that adds to the challenges that indigenous peoples face with regards to achieving social justice and equality. However, the importance of considering intersectionality in addressing indigenous peoples’ issues remain to be oftentimes overlooked. And the lack of their legal recognition, which is the case for majority of States in Asia, makes these issues all the more problematic and complicated.

Indigenous peoples’ approach to working and living with social and environmental capital have been providing solutions to sustainability and resilience since far before the world began discussing these issues. Indigenous peoples, therefore, should be seen as key partners in implementing the SDGs, something which clearly can only be achieved if their rights are respected and the particular challenges associated with intersectionality addressed. In line with the HLPF 2018 theme of “Transformation Towards Sustainable Societies,” with particular focus in the Asian region, this proposed side-event hopes to highlight the importance of approaching indigenous peoples’ issues in cognizance of intersectionality and identifying strategies in ensuring that the pledge in 2030 Agenda to “Leave No One Behind” is fully realized. It particularly aims to:

1. Provide space for indigenous peoples that suffers from multiple burden aside from their ethnicity to share their stories and concerns;
2. Map out initiatives from IPOs, CSOs and UN agencies, particularly ESCAP and IFAD, that can ensure these multiple burdens are comprehensively addressed in implementing 2030 Agenda in Asia Pacific;

3. Explore opportunities for collaboration and achieve a future where no one is left behind;

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