

**Yachay Wasi (NGO – ECOSOC & DPI) – Major Groups: Indigenous Peoples, NGOs
In Consultative Partnership with UNESCO
Accredited with UNFCCC
Member of the Mountain Partnership**

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**Statement to the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 Development Agenda
(27 – 31 July 2015)**

29 July 2015

Submitted by Marie-Danielle Samuel, yachaywasi@nyc.rr.com

Why mention of Sustainable Tourism is still flawed in current draft:

In February 2012, on behalf of Yachay Wasi, I faxed a statement to various Permanent Missions asking that Sustainable Tourism, as defined in CSD-7 (1999), be added to the Zero Draft for Rio + 20.

In March 2012, the G-77 countries and China asked Sustainable Tourism to be added and it was.

In later documents, Sustainable Tourism lost its original reference that it should benefit primarily Indigenous and local communities.

On July 14, 2014 opening day of the 13th session of the Open Working Group, Yachay Wasi was able to present a statement still shown on OWG-13 webpage.

https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B2K_9-fowH8GcThBUmQyeWNaa0U/edit?pli=1

Part of it is repeated here:

1 - Yachay Wasi has strongly advocated the Sustainable Tourism issue since 1999 when CSD-7 focused on Tourism for the first time. CSD-7 defined “Sustainable Tourism”, particularly: “If more Indigenous ownership could be developed, the perception of tourism as a foreign- dominated sector would be reduced”.
(Secretary-General Report, 21 January 1999, E/CN.17/1999/5/Add.2 Chapt. III, Parag. 30).

The 29 April 1999 resulting Draft Decision “Tourism and Sustainable Development” re-enforced the social and ethical aspects of Sustainable Tourism. (E/CN.17/1999/L.6).

Tourism in Indigenous regions often brings international visitors to Sacred sites, which unite Spirituality and Biodiversity and must be protected by the Indigenous communities involved. Crafts and arts, local products, ceremonies and ways of life are not just eco-touristic tokens free to be exploited but must be protected thru the World Intellectual Property Organization.

In March 2012, during CSD negotiations, “Sustainable Tourism” paragraphs 130, 131 were added to the Rio + 20 Zero Draft Document at the request mostly from the G-77 Countries. These 2 paragraphs were kept in the Future we want Outcome Document and in the Final Report of Rio + 20.

Sustainable Tourism is still mentioned in Target 8.9 of the current draft (26 July 2015 cover letter).

Yachay Wasi is still asking to replace by or incorporate the following sentences to Target 8.9:

8.9 By 2030, promote and develop sustainable tourism which safeguards the world’s cultural and natural heritage. Assist, financially and in capacity building, Indigenous and local communities to implement, control and benefit from their own Sustainable tourism, in mountain areas and other parts of the world. Tourism industry currently takes advantage of the intellectual properties of Indigenous peoples.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

After listening to the statement by the main Co-facilitator at the 7th meeting on 23 July 2015 repeating that negotiations are over this week and will not be accepted next week, even though the 27-31 July session is indeed called Negotiations, I was reminded of the First day of the 13th session of the Open working Group on July 14, 2014 when he repeated the same words and closed all the following meetings during that week until the last meeting on July 19 which was webcast. This video gave a glimpse on what actually went on during OWG-13.

Our NGO Yachay Wasi understanding of SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT is to protect the earth and preserve what is left of its Biodiversity. By accomplishing this, it enables other related issues affecting humanity today to be improved upon. **

But this Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals draft document has become an un-realistic catch-all for all the ills of modern world and downgrades the priority of the Environment.

By trying to fix all these ills, the UN is diverting from the urgency of tackling Biodiversity loss, Climate change and all their disastrous effects seriously. This is Today's threat! And it is still not taken seriously...

** This is actually expressed in the new parag. 32 of July 26, 2015 Draft: Quote: “ *We recognize that social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of our planet’s natural resources.* ”

Also, the role of proud World Indigenous Nations, stewards of the Planet, who had been wooed by the UN System since the 70's and correctly turned to for guidance, has now been reduced to one of the "vulnerable peoples" in the draft Declaration.

It is amazing how UN bodies do not seem to communicate among themselves. On July 22, 2015, in the ECOSOC chamber, the Economic and Social Council declared that Indigenous Peoples must be involved in all works of the UN including post 2015 Development Agenda... when on same day in Conference Room 1, the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals are doing their best to eliminate Indigenous inputs from their Draft document.

Following the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established. Its Secretariat started yearly sessions where Member States and Major Groups (listed in outcome document Agenda 21) were able to exchange views on the state of the Planet.

Yachay Wasi participated in CSD sessions yearly since 1998.

In September 2012, three months after Rio + 20, the CSD was terminated and has been replaced by the High Level Political Forum, a member states body of ECOSOC.

References to the CSD have been slowly eliminated in the Draft document: one of them is the mention of Major Groups, as defined in the 1992 Earth Summit Agenda 21.

Ref. Parag. 47: various stakeholders are listed and named as “relevant” in Means of Implementation. Local authorities, one of the Major Groups, is mentioned, but not referred to as a Major group; missing of course are Indigenous peoples.

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