

People-Powered Solutions: Connecting Local Communities and Global Challenges

Galina Angarova

GALINA ANGAROVA [a woman from the Ekhirit nation of the Buryat Peoples, a Russian indigenous group, wearing a white blouse and black sweater, Executive Director of SIRGE Coalition]:

The world we want is one where there are enough resources for everyone, and the world where everyone is thriving. Over 54% of all transition minerals needed for this energy transition is located either on or near Indigenous people's lands and territories, and that fact poses an existential threat to many Indigenous peoples. The SIRGE Coalition stands for Securing Indigenous Peoples' Rights in the Green Economy. And we are a coalition of Indigenous leaders, Indigenous-led organizations, and allies who came together to secure Indigenous peoples' rights in this new digital and energy transition.

Today, we're in conversations with over a dozen end-user companies that are seriously considering Indigenous people's rights and are willing to put free, prior, and informed consent into their policies: environmental policies, human rights policies, supplier code of conduct. Free, prior, and informed consent is the right that belongs to Indigenous peoples. It does not belong to governments, it does not belong to corporations. Indigenous peoples offer solutions. We're not victims. We're not beneficiaries. We're decision-makers, we're protagonists, and we're actors in our own lives.

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