



## **The Position of FIAY on COP21**

Lima, October 13th, 2015

FIAY, the network representing Indigenous Peoples of Abya Yala, gathered together in the city of Lima to discuss the forthcoming COP21, and has put forth the following guidelines to be welcomed by State Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Indigenous Peoples are the keepers of broad and extensive Indigenous knowledge that, over the centuries, has allowed us to live in harmony with nature, through the responsible use of the natural resources in our territories. That same wisdom will enable us to develop mechanisms for adaptation to the effects of climate change, ensure our subsistence and survival, and serve as our contribution to overall global stability to the benefit of humanity.

There must be global, regional, national and local solutions to the climate change phenomenon. In this case, we propose those that, at the global level, should be adopted by State parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Studies have revealed how Indigenous Peoples are affected by climate change, which has increased their level of vulnerability. Responding to now-greater risk levels, they continue to apply their own Indigenous knowledge systems and innovations toward the improving their own adaptability and resilience. This clearly demonstrates the important role that Indigenous Peoples play in the fight against climate change, as well as the effectiveness of their methods in this fight.

In addition, it is important to note that Indigenous lands, territories and resources are refuges for the conservation of ecosystems that are rich in biodiversity, both biological and cultural. While it is thanks to our stewardship of these that we can survive so healthily. Nevertheless our level of subsistence has been diminished by increasing levels of pollution and the effects of climate change.

We demand that countries stop the repression and criminalization of Indigenous leaders who struggle to protect and preserve the natural resources and livelihoods of our Indigenous Peoples.

Accordingly, we consider it is necessary to change this model of development which is causing a planetary collapse, therefore we reiterate the call for State Parties to take our proposals and demands into account, so that they may be included in the future climate agreement as well as all further binding commitments to be signed in Paris, during the COP21.

## **I. Institutional Framework for Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples:**

It is important for the Continental Climate Change Strategy of Abya Yala to recognize that the traditional systems of Indigenous Peoples, focused on practices for the adaptation and mitigation of climate change, should be strengthened, to promote their own full and effective participation; that which offers plans of action concerning the strengthening of adaptation methods, mitigation of climate change from the perspective and rights of Indigenous Peoples:

- a. To promote Indigenous Peoples' participation and influence at various levels and mechanisms of climate change;
- b. To promote and strengthen the traditional knowledge and wisdom of Indigenous Peoples with regard to this theme.

The final document of the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples (NY 2014) recognizes that any decision of COP21 in Paris must recognize and guarantee the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in all processes, programs and actions, at all levels.

## **II. Approaches to be integrated into the negotiations of the UNFCCC:**

1. To recognize the rights of Indigenous Peoples in accordance with international human rights treaties and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in all mechanisms, bodies and procedures, as established under the UNFCCC.
2. To recognize and protect the cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, innovations, technologies, cultural expressions and spiritualities of Indigenous Peoples.
3. To ensure Indigenous Peoples' direct and immediate access to funding mechanism, appropriate technologies and capacity building.
4. To recognize, respect and promote the full participation of Indigenous women, intergenerationally, in all actions and decision-making within the areas of climate change.

## **III.**

- IV. Proposals for negotiating the issues of the UNFCCC: SHARED VISION:** The parties must commit themselves to respect international norms and standards of human rights and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which establish moral and legal obligations to protect and promote Indigenous Peoples' full enjoyment of these rights.

1. **TRAINING:** This should be consistent with the priorities of indigenous peoples, with cultural relevance, to strengthen the capacity building, especially Indigenous women and youth, based on their traditional knowledge, innovations and Indigenous practices, to strengthen and implement their own lifeways.
2. **TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY:** This should be with the consent of Indigenous Peoples; prompt, immediate, opportune, free of charge and in harmony with Mother Earth; unconditional and presenting no risks to Indigenous Peoples' ways of life.
3. **FUNDING:** All funding mechanisms for the mitigation and adaptation to climate change should provide direct resources to Indigenous Peoples. Furthermore, the disbursement of such funds to projects in Indigenous territories must be directly tied to the level in that they respect, monitor and report on cultural, social and environmental safeguards.
4. **ADAPTATION:** To guarantee the respect for, as well as the protection and promotion of the traditional knowledge and sustainable livelihoods of the peoples, into which the States shall incorporate Indigenous strategies based on their ancestral knowledge, into national plans for adaptation (NAPAs).
5. **MITIGATION:** To recognize and promote Indigenous Peoples' own systems regarding the use, management and conservation of natural resources, forests, ecosystems and traditional knowledge.

## **V. Indigenous Peoples' approaches prior to COP-21 CC**

1. To support the overall objective of preventing the average temperature of the earth from rising more than 1.5 ° C.
2. To urge the State Parties to ensure that the Paris accord respects the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including those rights to land, territories and resources which are enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
3. To insure that any final outcome of the negotiations, as well as the expected, nationally determined contributions (INDCs) submitted by State Parties, should include indicators as to the degree in which the rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples are respected, and should ensure the benefits are not carbon-derivative. The INDCs must also include indicators for reporting on national progress, to ensure collective land-titling, concrete measures to control the drivers of deforestation, and the allocation of public funds for the management of Indigenous lands, territories and resources. Furthermore, it should be recognized that Indigenous practices and traditional ways of life are not causes of deforestation, rather, they contribute to the mitigation and adaptation thereof.

4. That the States agree to inform Indigenous Peoples about any measures taken to meet the goals of lowering GHG emissions, as well as their effects.
5. Furthermore, State Parties should establish a special fund dedicated and with direct access to, as well as managed by Indigenous Peoples within both developing and developed countries, to improve and strengthen their coping skills, knowledge and traditional ways of life. Parties should also ensure direct access to climate-related funding that already exists, such as the Green Climate Fund.
6. Any action taken by the private sector with relation to climate change should respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their right to land, territories and resources, as well as to consultation with free, prior and informed consent on these issues.