



INTERNATIONAL  
INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES'  
FORUM ON  
CLIMATE CHANGE

## INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE

### OUR PROPOSALS TO GOVERNMENTS

November 27 2015

#### 1. RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES AND ACTIONS

Parties should ensure an overarching human rights approach to all climate change interventions, procedures, mitigation and adaptation strategies. The operational provisions of the Paris Agreement as well as the COP decisions that will provide guidance for the implementation of deliberations adopted in COP21 should specifically require Parties to respect, protect, promote, and fulfill human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples as provided in the UNDRIP, ILO Convention No. 169, the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and General Recommendation 23 of CERD.

Some proposed solutions to climate change such as those under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) have serious implications for the rights of indigenous peoples. Therefore, it is imperative that Parties recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their lands, territories and resources, including their cosmo-visions, and their rights to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), with the right to say "No". Indigenous Peoples living in voluntary isolations must be protected in their territories from extractive industries and other projects. Furthermore, criminalization and repression of Indigenous Peoples' leaders who struggle for the protection of lands and livelihoods and against the grabbing of indigenous lands and territories, should be stopped immediately. False solutions to climate change, such as dams, extensive biofuel crops, new coal mines, that harm Indigenous Peoples must be abandoned. An international plan to address forced migration of Indigenous Peoples due to climate change impacts, cyclones and droughts should also be launched.

Building on the Cancun Agreement, clear and robust safeguards must be

integrated into any future global climate change Post-2015 agreement. To ensure this, the Subsidiary Bodies should be given a mandate to develop modalities and methodologies on how to fully integrate and operationalize an approach to climate change policies and actions, which ensures human rights including the rights of indigenous peoples.

The IIPFCC also takes note of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their specific reference to Climate Change in Goal 13. However, it is important for States to recognize that while the SDGs seek to end poverty and hunger in all their forms, the UNFCCC's Structured Expert Dialogue report concludes that the proposed 2 °C goal will increase poverty and hunger among Indigenous Peoples. We urge Parties in Paris to commit to a maximum temperature increase of 1.5 °C – in line with the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities – both in the Paris Agreement and in their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions. We also call for a review to determine whether the target should be further lowered to a maximum temperature increase of 1.0 C.

In addition governments should commit to reduce emissions and phase out reliance on fossil fuels, promoting far reaching de-carbonization approaches and programmes, such as safe and small scale renewable energy while supporting Indigenous Peoples' initiatives, including by means of appropriate technology transfer within the framework of climate justice.

Scientific data show that collective ownership and integral titling of land, territories and resources of Indigenous Peoples, as well as respect for customary use and management are the most effective ways of protecting fragile ecosystems and thereby contributing to adaptation and mitigation.

Therefore, as regards the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), Parties should ensure the participation of Indigenous Peoples in relevant processes and include indicators that reflect the commitment to recognize and integrate collective rights to territory, self-determination, autonomy, self-representation, exercise of customary law, non-discrimination and customary land use principles. INDCs should also include commitments to respect Indigenous Peoples' rights as well as modalities for reporting on national progress to ensure land titling, to provide concrete measures to control mega drivers, to provide for the direct allocation of public funding for the management of indigenous territories, to properly consider non-carbon benefits and to protect cultural, spiritual and subsistence values

Parties should also ensure the right to equitable benefit-sharing in all climate change related activities, taking into account other internationally agreed

outcomes/instruments on Access and Benefit Sharing including the Nagoya Protocol.

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## 2. RECOGNIZE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO CLIMATE ADAPTATION, MITIGATION AND RESPECT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' TRADITIONAL LIVELIHOODS

The importance of Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods and knowledge in contributing to adaptation and mitigation has been re-affirmed by the IPCC, in its assessment report AR5 on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. We therefore welcome reference to traditional knowledge and to the positive contributions that Indigenous Peoples play in adaptation in the zero draft text of the Agreement. However this recognition should be reflected in the mitigation text as well.

The obligation to respect indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge goes beyond the recognition of our positive contribution to climate change policies and action. It extends to the obligation to recognize and protect our cultural heritage, innovation technologies, cultural expressions and spirituality.

As a concrete step, we call on Parties to establish an Indigenous Peoples' Experts and "knowledge-holders" Advisory body elected by indigenous organizations and 'indigenous territorial governments' with regional balance. This body would work as a technical advisory and consultative resource that contributes the perspective of indigenous traditional knowledge to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all UNFCCC subsidiary bodies, activities, mechanisms and programs, especially with respect to Indigenous Peoples' related issues. In addition, Indigenous Peoples should fully and effectively participate in Technical Expert Meetings (TEMs) dealing with pre-2020 ambition.

Furthermore, we urge Parties, to integrate indigenous traditional knowledge in early warning systems and include Indigenous Peoples, including indigenous women, in other appropriate early warning systems. When discussing this matter under "*issues related to Agriculture*", SBSTA should establish a Technical Working Group on Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge and take into due account the outcome of the 3rd World Conference on Disaster and Risk Reduction held from March 14th to 18th, 2015. In its final statement participants reiterated the key contribution that indigenous people can play through our experience and traditional knowledge to the development and implementation of plans and mechanisms, including early warning.

Finally, the assessment of risk and vulnerability should include shifting cultivation and rotational farming, too often stigmatized as drivers of deforestation and ecosystem degradation, while in reality they positively contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Therefore, we call on parties to ensure that food systems, food security, nutritional and cultural values of plans and food, seed, varieties and traditional crops, biodiversity, resource management systems and indigenous peoples agricultural systems be part of risk and vulnerability assessments.

Traditional livelihoods and knowledge systems, and indigenous cosmo visions should also be integrated at the project level, for instance by adjusting REDD+ activities to incorporate indigenous proposals and initiatives that look beyond carbon benefits and market-based approaches.

### 3. ENSURE FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES INCLUDING WOMEN AND YOUTH IN CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED PROCESSES AND PROGRAMS AT LOCAL, NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

Indigenous territories are in the frontline of climate change impacts. Engagement in the international bodies is critical and we urge governments and institutions to ensure Indigenous Peoples' rights to effectively engage, participate and be consulted in climate change policies and programs at local, national and regional levels. Our right to Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) should be recognized and upheld at all levels.

In particular, Indigenous Peoples should fully and effectively participate in Safeguards Information Systems, National Forest Monitoring Systems, National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPA), Disaster Risk Reduction and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPA), National Designation Authorities (NDAs).

Therefore, Indigenous peoples need to have access capacity building and to appropriate technologies. Indigenous Peoples must be part of the Loss and Damage Executive Committee and must fully and effectively participate in the Adaptation Fund and Advisory Board, as well as in the conduct of assessments of the risks and vulnerability of agricultural systems. Particular efforts should be made to ensure the engagement of indigenous women.

As regards Loss and Damage, we urge Parties, when discussing the Report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw Mechanism on Loss and Damage, to give

guidance to ensure that Indigenous Peoples fully attend and engage in the meetings of the Executive Committee, starting from the next one scheduled for February 2016.

We also call for the urgent implementation of programmes to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, including the mobilization and securing of funds, and the provision of technology and capacity building activities to address climate change impacts. Financial support - by means of community funds - must also cover compensation for already damaged and lost lands, resources and livelihoods of indigenous peoples due to adverse impacts of climate change.

#### 4. ENSURE DIRECT ACCESS TO CLIMATE FINANCE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FROM DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Indigenous peoples from developed and developing countries should have direct access to financial resources, from bilateral to multilateral - such as the Green Climate Fund - through their representative organizations, building on the experience and precedents of other climate funds and must be provided with the necessary opportunities and resources to propose, design, implement adaptation and mitigation projects based on their traditional knowledge and livelihoods.

We call on Parties to support our request for the representation of Indigenous Peoples' Organizations (IPOs) as active observers within the Board of the GCF under a differentiated category from non-governmental actors as the case is in the UNFCCC where Indigenous Peoples are considered as a separate constituency

Furthermore, the GCF should adopt an Indigenous Peoples' policy as well as stringent criteria to ensure the effective engagement, consultation and participation of indigenous peoples both in the GCF activities and at all levels.