

Summary Report on African IPs Regional Workshop Towards COP21

Page | 1

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Eastland Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya

Prepared and Submitted By: MPIDO- Africa Regional Focal Point Organization.

Acknowledgement

MPIDO wishes to acknowledge and deeply appreciate the support accorded to Indigenous Peoples globally by Norway through UNDP to Strengthen and support IPs engagement in UNFCCC processes leading up to, and beyond, COP21.

Page | 2

MPIDO would also wish to thank IWGIA and the Global Steering Committee for ensuring smooth implementation of activities under this project.

Introduction

Representatives of the Indigenous Peoples of Africa have conducted effective regional workshop aimed to create common understanding on issues to be voiced together in COP21. As African focal point for indigenous peoples of Africa MPIDO has played an active role by organizing the workshop within very short time.

The Workshop participants gathered from the following 16 countries:

1. Kenya
2. Ethiopia
3. Tanzania
4. Nigeria
5. Uganda
6. Burundi
7. South Africa
8. Namibia
9. Congo (Democratic Republic)
10. Morocco
11. Algeria
12. Chad
13. Niger
14. Botswana
15. Rwanda

Presentations were made by different people on national & international issues and united African approaches and reactions to the global indigenous people's movements. The issues regarding the rights of the indigenous peoples in Africa have also been discussed. Moreover, the issues related to funding mechanisms for the indigenous peoples also discussed in detail. Furthermore, the national experiences of the indigenous movements in east, north, south, west

and central Africa discussed and the participant came up with conclusion that are pertinent for COP21.

The major burning/cross cutting issues adversely affecting indigenous peoples raised during the two day workshop are as follows:

Page | 3

1. Recurrent drought and famine,
2. Conflicts over natural resources,
3. Human rights violation by government authorities and Private Investors,
4. Capacity limitations due to unavailability of funds for the indigenous peoples organizations to directly empower their peoples
5. Impacts of climate change to their livelihoods
6. Bad and wrong interventions by governments especially on mitigation and adaptation e.g. renewable energy

Therefore, the participants underscored the need to act together against the violations of human rights for which lack of good governance, corruption, systematic marginalization of indigenous communities, implementation of projects & programmes without full & effective participation of indigenous communities and relevant stakeholders, disregard to the rights of free, prior & Informed Consent of the indigenous peoples on the issues that affect their lives and the lives of the future generation.

The participants also agreed unanimously to urge African governments to integrate a human rights base approach in all of climate change related development activities, recognize the status of indigenous peoples as stipulated under United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), International Labor Organization Convention 169, World Indigenous Peoples Conference (WIPC) resolution, African Charter on Human & Peoples' Rights report and other regional and international legal instruments, adopt and effectively enforce policies and laws on indigenous peoples, ensure free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in all climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes, take proper safeguard measures as indicated under Cancun Agreements, recognize and protect the indigenous peoples' intellectual property rights, ensure fair benefit sharing for indigenous peoples contribution for climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation of water, soil, biodiversity and protection of environment through the effective implementation environment friendly, holistic, flexible and field tested approaches of indigenous knowledge systems and capacitate indigenous peoples through affirmative measures.

There are positive lessons shared by participants presented their national experiences on the peaceful struggle against violation of the rights of their indigenous communities. Accordingly, the following are the key lesson/ success stories:

1. Positive measures by Government organs on some countries such as Uganda, Ethiopia, Namibia, DRC Congo & Kenya and
2. Delegation of the indigenous peoples in highest political positions such as at Minister Level in countries such as Ethiopia,

African indigenous peoples key messages and positions

The participants made deep discussion on the 6 key messages & feedbacks from the country consultations and elements of the common positions to be escalated to the IIPFCC/GSC and COP21. Accordingly, group discussion was made by Francophone & Anglophone countries separately and comments were given on the key messages to be addressed in the upcoming COP21, Paris.

The Africa Indigenous Peoples supported the outcome document of Lima underscoring the six key messages. However the Africa IPs had a series of recommendations that they put forward:

Key message number 1 :

- A. Integrate a human rights base approach in terms of INDCs implémentation at national level
- B. Effective recognition of the status of indigenous peoples as specified in international and regional instruments such as ILO169, UNDRIP, ACHPR report, ACHPR, WCIP resolution
- C. Develop indigenous peoples policies by the African Union and the African Development Bank in collaboration with indigenous people
- D. Introduction of national legislations and policies on indigenous peoples rights at the national level

Key message number 2

- A. Ensure the Free Prior and Informed Consent in all climate related matters (programs and projects) involving indigenous communities who reserve the right to say NO
- B. Develop national legislations to safeguard pastoral spaces, mountains areas, oases and salt deposit which contribute mitigate the impact of climate change

Key message number 3

- A. Safeguard the intellectual property rights of the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples
- B. Implement the Cancun framework that recognizes indigenous and traditional knowledge at the national level
- C. Integration of indigenous traditional knowledge and scientific knowledge as adaptation and mitigation solution

Key message number 4

- A. Differentiate between indigenous peoples and civil society in all matters of consultation, and recognition of indigenous communities base monitoring and information system

Key message number 5

- A. Ensure effective participation and contribution of indigenous peoples in all climate change decisions making bodies at regional and national level

Key message number 6

- A. African Development Bank should create an indigenous peoples platform to ensure their active engagement in the management of the climate financial resources

African proposition for the IPs fund

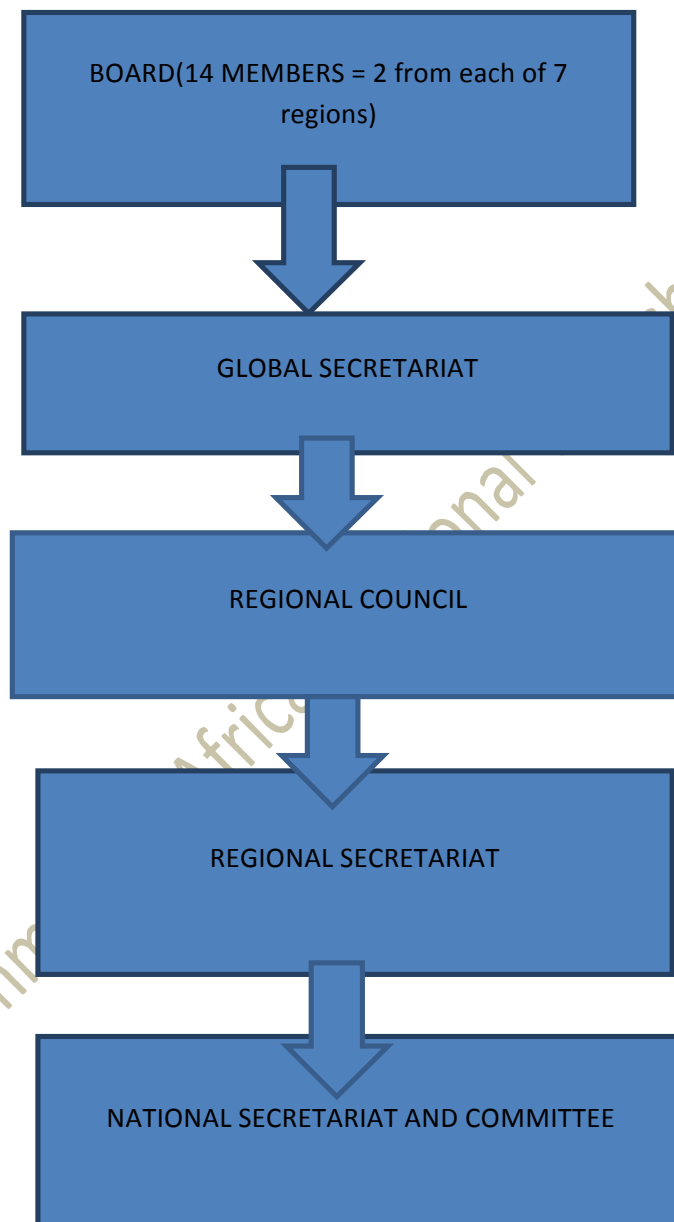
The participants also discussed on the **Indigenous Peoples Fund** in terms of priority of activities/thematic issues (both short term and long term), institutional arrangement to manage & channel the fund, partnership issues & management structure as well as fund flow as well. They emphasized the necessity for direct access to the dedicated climate fund. A commitment was made by the indigenous people to fundraise for additional funds to supplement Norway generous contributions to ensure sustainability.

The IPs in Africa submitted the following list of recommendations:

- High flexibility of the fund is a mandatory requirement so as to cope with unpredictable emerging issue affecting indigenous communities
- A mechanism should be put in place which will allow easy access to funds on short notice

- Dedicated climate fund should be an addition to existing fund available to indigenous communities in terms of climate change project and programme
- Grant proposal writing, budgeting and reporting mechanisms both narrative and financial should be clear and transparent for the indigenous communities

Accordingly, the proposed management structure is as follows:



At global level:

Establish an independent board of indigenous directors at the global level comprising of two members from each region. For the African indigenous peoples there will be two nominated members: one from the francophone region and one from the Anglophone region

Page | 7

At regional level:

Establish an independent indigenous people's council and technical secretariat. The IPs in Africa submitted the following list of criteria to select such an institution:

- A continental or regional network of indigenous people organizations whose members organizations are actively engaged in climate change activities at grassroots, national and international level
- An organization which has both Anglophone and francophone membership and is recognised by UN agencies, state institutions and donors as a viable institution
- An organization with good records of financial management and good governance system
- Long standing experience with the UNFCCC and strong collaboration with institutions working with Climate Change

At sub regional level:

Establish or strengthen existing indigenous platform or networks. Set up secretariat to serve the platform or network of the counties at this sub region. Member Countries can nominate their representatives to the sub regional bodies.

At National level:

Establish or strengthen existing indigenous organizations or platform to work closely with indigenous grassroots communities .

Projects and activities

Short term objectives and activities

- Establishment of the independent global board of directors
- Create or strengthen continental technical secretariat
- create and strengthen sub-regional platform or network
- Capacity building on financial management and good governance
- Setup a adaptation and mitigation projects and elaboration of emergency projects

- training on climate change,
- livelihood and food security,
- documentation of traditional knowledge,
- Culture identity integration in climate change programme
- human rights training
- conflict management
- indigenous people land and territories mapping
- impact of climate change in gender and youth
- development of indigenous early warning system on climate change impacts
- Fundraising for additional funds

Long term objectives and activities

- Reinforce the capacities of all existing institutions and ensure that all staff members, programme officers etc. are of indigenous origin
- Capacity building on financial management and good governance
- Setup long term projects and programme on adaptation and mitigation
 - Exchange of experiences with indigenous communities from others continents
 - monitoring and evaluation of all projects and programmes
 - Preservation of communities ecosystems and natural resources
 - Monitoring and documentation of human rights violation and early warning system
 - monitoring and evaluation of indigenous early warning system on climate change impacts
 - Fundraising for additional funds

Communication and IPs Pavilion

During the Africa IPs regional meeting, the participants were also given an update on the IPs Pavilion and COP-21 Communication Plan and Development for the Africa Region IPs Consultative Forum by the focal point organization-MPIDO.

The participants thus agreed to provide to provide content and material information for the focal point to provide to the Organizing team. The agreed format and type of content and information to be shared shall further be the below:

- Flyers (in soft copy)
- Posters (in soft copy)
- Partner Brief – summary of activities in region or country
- IPs position and statement
- Multimedia content: Documentary, Video clips

However, the focal point organization was requested to provide clarification to some of the issues raised and the clarifications were given as follows:

Q: Space available at COP21

A: IPS have 320 sq.m of unplanned space. The interior plans are ongoing and will be shared once released

Page | 9

Q: Presentation of Final statement and position

A: All regions will use the IP Pavilion as a point to crusade for support of IP statement and position. The position and statement documents will be published on the site

Q: How the IPs will benefit from the site during COP21

A: The focal points will ensure continued updates on the negotiations and development during COP21

Q: Format of content.

A: the Format and sizes of the posters, pictures, Documentaries etc shall be shared once guidelines are fully agreed on by the Focal points.

Finally, the group discussion also came up with selection criteria of the regions' representative participants to the COP21 participation. Accordingly, totally 15 participants were selected to be represented in COP21 and each sub region has selected its own representatives (7 from Anglophone countries and 8 from Francophone Countries).

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