



INTERNATIONAL
INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES'
FORUM ON
CLIMATE CHANGE



CENTER for INTERNATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

*Compilation of Decisions and Conclusions Adopted by
the Parties to the Convention - 2020 Update*



About IIPFCC

The International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) was established in 2008, as the Caucus for Indigenous Peoples participating in the UNFCCC processes. The IIPFCC represents the IP Caucus members from seven regions of the world; namely; Asia, Asia-Pacific, Africa, Arctic, Latin America, North America and Russia who are present/attending the official UNFCCC COPs and inter-sessional sessions of the SBSTA/SBI bodies in between COPs. Its mandate is to come into agreement specifically on what IPs will be negotiating for in specific UNFCCC processes. IP representatives attending the meetings have their own organizations at subnational, national and global levels which have their own agenda, priorities and own proposals that they may carry and push for during the IP Caucus meetings.

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Founded in 1989, the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) uses the power of law to protect the environment, promote human rights, and ensure a just and sustainable society. CIEL is dedicated to advocacy in the global public interest through legal counsel, policy research, analysis, education, training, and capacity building.

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Acknowledgements

This compilation was edited by Lisa Kadel and Sébastien Duyck, with an introduction by Graeme Reede (Senior Advisor, Assembly of First Nations), and was updated to reflect the outcome of the Madrid Climate Conference (COP-25). We would also like to thank Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Kim Gottschalk, Helena Michalke, Lakpa Nuri Sherpa, Stanley Kimaren Riamit, and Sumeyra Arslan for their insights, comments, and contributions.

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PART 1

Introduction

Indigenous Peoples have been sounding the alarm on climate change for decades. Drawing on knowledge and observations shared by their Elders and knowledge keepers, as well as their reciprocal relationships with the natural world, Indigenous Peoples have been urgently voicing concerns to warn of the impacts of climate change. Indeed, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in 1992 captured this well: “Indigenous people and their communi-

ties...have a vital role in environmental management and development because of their knowledge and traditional practices.” It was further affirmed in a statement from the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples: “We confirm that indigenous peoples’ knowledge and strategies to sustain their environment should be respected and taken into account when we develop national and international approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation.” Clearly, Indigenous Peoples play a unique role in taking urgent and transformative action against the intersecting climate, biodiversity, and health crises.

Concerns on the current approach were raised in Paris, where representatives of Indigenous Peoples believed that the proposed 2°C goal would increase poverty and hunger among Indigenous Peoples, and thus suggest “Parties in Paris to commit to a maximum temperature increase of 1.5°C ... and call for a review to determine whether the target should be further lowered to a maximum temperature increase of 1.0°C.” Although these advocacy efforts were not successful, Indigenous Peoples were successful in getting rights-based language included in the Paris Agreement preamble: “Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote, and consider their respective obligations on human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples.”



Photo by Ian Macharia / Unsplash

A rights-based approach, including commitments to uphold the minimum standards contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, is essential to climate solutions that are grounded in equity, justice, and the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples.

Capturing this leadership is essential to understand the true contribution that Indigenous Peoples have brought to the conversation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the broader climate discourse. This document lists all references to Indigenous Peoples and traditional knowledge contained in political documents adopted in 2019 by the Parties to the UNFCCC through the Conference of the Parties (COP) and its

subsidiary bodies. It is a complement to previous compilations published by the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change and the Center for International Environmental Law, including a [compilation of references to Indigenous Peoples and traditional knowledge in documents adopted by key UNFCCC bodies](#). It adheres to the structure of the previous publication. First, it lists the mandates related to the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP), and second, it compiles all other references to Indigenous Peoples and traditional knowledge by thematic policy area. The index lists all the references to the documents mentioned in the compilation (including web links to the original UN documents).



PART 2

Compilation of Relevant Decisions under the UNFCCC Process

2.1 Mandates and Decisions Related to the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

Report of SBSTA 51 (Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice)

Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (2019)

Conclusions

44. The SBSTA recalled decisions 1/CP.21, 2/CP.23 and 2/CP.24.

45. The SBSTA welcomed the report on the 1st meeting of the FWG of the LCIPP (*Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform*).

46. The SBSTA also welcomed the initial two-year workplan for the period 2020–2021 for implementing the functions of the LCIPP.

47. The SBSTA expressed its appreciation for the work of the FWG as part of the transparent, inclusive and participatory process to develop the initial two-year workplan referred to in paragraph 46 above.

48. The SBSTA noted that the 2nd meeting of the FWG was successfully held in conjunction with this session.

49. The SBSTA noted with appreciation the active participation of Parties, indigenous peoples, local communities and other relevant stakeholders in both meetings of the FWG.

50. The SBSTA expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Australia, Canada, Finland, Luxembourg, Norway and Sweden for providing financial support in relation to the work of the LCIPP.

51. The SBSTA reaffirmed the importance of enhancing the coherence between the FWG and relevant bodies under and outside the Convention consistently with their relevant mandates.

52. The SBSTA took note of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat referred to in paragraph 46 above.

53. The SBSTA requested that the actions of the secretariat called for in these conclusions be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.



Report of the first meeting of the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

The following summary is the official summary included in the report. The full report, including the work plan, is not reproduced here due to space constraints. It is available at the UN Document Service with the Document Number FCCC/SBSTA/2019/4 and linked in the Table of References of this compilation.

Summary

The Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform was established at the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties. This report provides a

summary of its 1st meeting, held from 14 to 16 June 2019, in conjunction with the fiftieth sessions of the subsidiary bodies, at which a draft initial two-year workplan for implementing the functions of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform was prepared. The report also contains organizational and procedural information, including on membership and on co-chairing and working arrangements, and a synthesis of the discussions that took place at the meeting. Discussion topics included the dedicated Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform web portal, an update on activities organized by the secretariat for the fiftieth sessions of the subsidiary bodies, and enhancing the coherence of actions under the Platform. Annex I contains the proposed initial two-year workplan for 2020–2021 for operationalizing the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.

2.2 Compilation of Other Relevant Mandates and Decisions

Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Decision 1/CMA.2 (Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement)

Chile Madrid Time for Action

Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of **indigenous peoples**, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.

Action for Climate Empowerment

Decision 15/CP.25 (Conference of the Parties)

Terms of reference for the review of the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention

Also reaffirming the key role that a broad range of stakeholders, inter alia, national governments, regions as applicable, cities, education and cultural institutions, museums, the private sector, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, decision makers, scientists, the media, teachers, youth, women and **indigenous peoples**, play in ensuring Action for Climate Empowerment.



Photo by Simon Matzinger / Flickr



Agriculture

Report of SBI 50 (Subsidiary Body on Implementation) and Report of the SBSTA 50 (Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice)

Identical wording is included in both reports. The numbering of the paragraphs below follows the report of SBI 50.

Koronivia joint work on agriculture (KJWA)

44. The SBI and the SBSTA welcomed the report on the first Koronivia road map in-session workshop, on topic 2(a) (modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session work-

shops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work), which was held in conjunction with SB 49. The SBSTA and the SBI considered the workshop report and agreed to:

(d) Recognize the importance of the continued involvement of scientific and technical knowledge in transforming the agriculture sector, enabling conditions, the crucial role of farmers, youth, local communities and **indigenous peoples**, including gender considerations, and of meeting the needs of farmers and food systems;

47. The SBI and the SBSTA requested the secretariat to organize, in addition to the workshops mandated in the Koronivia road map and subject to the availability of supplementary funds, an intersessional workshop between SB 51 and 52 (June 2020) to contribute to

delivering the outcomes of the KJWA, taking into consideration the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and approaches to addressing food security, and to prepare a report on the workshop for consideration at SB 52. They took note of the importance of issues, including, but not limited to, farmers, gender, youth, and local communities and **indigenous peoples**. They welcomed with appreciation the offer of the Government of New Zealand to host the workshop. They requested the secretariat to take into account the following elements when organizing the workshop:

- (a) Sustainable land and water management, including integrated watershed management strategies, to ensure food security;
- (b) Strategies and modalities to scale up implementation of best practices, innovations and technologies that increase resilience and sustainable production in agricultural systems according to national circumstances.

Ambition

Decision 1/CP.25 (Conference of the Parties)

Chile Madrid Time for Action

Cognizant of the efforts and concerns of civil society, in particular of youth and **indigenous peoples**, in calling for urgent and ambitious global climate action

Gender

Decision 3/CP.25 (Conference of the Parties)

Enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan

Recognizing with concern that climate change impacts on women and men can often differ owing to historical and current gender inequalities and multidimensional factors and can be more pronounced in developing countries and for local communities and **indigenous peoples**

Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of **indigenous peoples**, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity

Gender Action Plan

Priority area B: gender balance, participation and women's leadership

B.2 Activity: Promote travel funds as a means of supporting the equal participation of women in all national delegations at UNFCCC sessions, as well as funds to support the participation of

grass-roots local and indigenous peoples' communities from developing countries, the least developed countries and small island developing States, and encourage Parties and relevant organizations to share information on travel funding

Responsibilities: Leading: Parties, Contributing: relevant organizations, secretariat

Timeline: Ongoing to COP 30 (2024)

Deliverables/Outputs: Mobilization of travel funds to increase women's participation in the UNFCCC process

Level of implementation: International, regional, national

B.3 Activity: Invite the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group to collaborate and co-host a dialogue to discuss advancing the leadership and highlighting the solutions of local communities and indigenous women and ways of enhancing their effective participation in climate policy and action, to the extent that it is consistent with the workplan of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group and within existing resources

Responsibilities: Invite to collaborate: Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group, secretariat; Contributing: Parties, relevant organizations

Timeline: SB 57 (2022)

Deliverables/Output: Dialogue

Level of implementation: International, regional

Responsibilities: Secretariat

Timeline: SB 58 (2023)

Deliverables/Output: Dialogue report

Level of implementation: International

Priority area D: gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation

D.2 Activity: Raise awareness of the financial and technical support available for promoting the strengthening of gender integration into climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate, including good practices to facilitate access to climate finance for grass-roots women's organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities

Responsibilities: Leading: Secretariat, Parties; Contributing: Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, private sector, philanthropic financial institutions, other relevant organizations

Timeline: Ongoing to COP 30 (2024)

Deliverables/Output: Webinars, communication materials, in-session workshops

Level of implementation: International, regional, national

D.3 Activity: Promote the deployment of gender-responsive technological solutions to address climate change, including strengthening, protecting and preserving local, indigenous and

traditional knowledge and practices in different sectors and for improving climate resilience, and by fostering women's and girls' full participation and leadership in science, technology, research and development

Responsibilities: Leading: Parties, relevant organizations, constituted bodies; Contributing: Secretariat

Timeline: Ongoing to COP 30 (2024)

Deliverables/Output: Workshops, capacity-building initiatives, webinars

Level of implementation: International, regional, national

Loss and Damage

Decision 2/CMA.2 (Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement)

Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts and its 2019 review

Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and



consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of **indigenous peoples**, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity

9. *Recognizes* the importance and value of **indigenous, traditional and local knowledge**

15. *Recognizes* the importance of particularly vulnerable developing countries and segments of the population that are already vulnerable owing to geography, socioeconomic status, livelihood, gender, age, **indigenous or minority status**, or disability, as well as the ecosystems they depend on, in the implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism.

Research

Report of SBSTA 50 (Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice)

**Matters relating to science and review
— research and systemic observations**

73. The SBSTA emphasized the importance of hearing directly from represen-

tatives of the IPCC and national, regional and international climate change research programmes and organizations for the enhancement of knowledge exchange, and noted the value of hearing directly from representatives of the communities and peoples most vulnerable to the current and projected impacts of climate change. It encouraged the secretariat to continue to invite a wide range of representatives, including from **indigenous peoples** and different scientific disciplines, to future meetings of the research dialogue.

76. Noting the value of multiple knowledge systems, which include **traditional knowledge**, and the importance of the co-production of knowledge for developing transformative solutions for addressing climate change, the SBSTA encouraged Parties, academia, research institutions and the wider scientific community, national and subnational institutions, local communities and **indigenous peoples**, and other communities of practice to work together, as applicable, to create such solutions for addressing climate change. The SBSTA noted that the co-production of knowledge may strengthen research related to addressing and responding to climate change, including through the possible engagement of the research community in the relevant activities of the **Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform**.

Response Measures

Decision 4/CP.25 (Conference of the Parties), Decision 4/ CMA.2 (Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement) and Decision 4/CMP.15 (Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol)

Workplan of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures and its Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures (KCI)

9. *Activity:* Identify and assess the impacts of the implementation of response measures taking into account intergenerational equity, gender considerations and the needs of local communities, indigenous peoples, youth and other people in vulnerable situations

Estimated timeline for implementation: SB 56 and SB 62 (2025)

Responsible actor: KCI

Modalities/outputs: Input from experts, practitioners and relevant organizations, Technical paper

Responsible actor: Forum

Modalities/outputs: Exchange and sharing of experience and best practices, Input from experts, practitioners and relevant organizations, In-session workshop



Table of References

Note: The electronic version of this document contains links to all of the original UNFCCC documents listed in the table of references.

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The United Nations recognizes that Indigenous Peoples are at the front lines of climate change and that their traditional knowledge is a key to understanding climate impacts, to reducing emissions effectively, and to increasing the resilience of ecosystems and communities. This document provides a compilation of all references to Indigenous Peoples and traditional knowledge included in decisions and other outcomes adopted by governments under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2019.



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