Indigenous Peoples Participation at UNFCCC

SBI In-session Workshop to further develop ways to enhance the engagement of observer organizations
8 June 2011, Hotel Maritim, Bonn
Session II: Proposals for new means of participation

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Indigenous Peoples are among those most impacted by climate change and have traditional and local knowledge that needs to be fully recognized and respected in global, national and sub-national efforts to respond to climate change,

Indigenous Peoples are rightholders, not stakeholders or constituency groups,
- Lands and territories affected by climate mitigation measures including REDD
- Indigenous knowledge

In line with Arts. 41 and 42 of the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and on informal meetings with Parties in 2010, we recommend:
New modalities for participation of Indigenous Peoples based on precedents in other UN processes

- Indigenous Peoples should have increased opportunities to make interventions and actively engage in the negotiations in the same manner as parties, as in the Convention on Biological Diversity.

- Indigenous Peoples should be allowed to actively participate in activities throughout the sessions, including thematic discussions, workshops, contact groups, drafting committees, friends of the chair, informals and expert panels.
Setting up of an Indigenous Peoples’ Expert body

- Act as technical advisory body on issues of direct relevance to Indigenous Peoples
- Form a consultative resource during negotiations and for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all UNFCCC subsidiary bodies, activities, mechanisms and programmes
- Act in collaboration with the Bureau of the COP
Inclusion of UN Indigenous mechanisms

  - Active support towards their participation in the UNFCCC processes as indigenous experts
- Should not replace self-selection & representation processes of IPs
Support to increased awareness of Indigenous Peoples issues

- Technical support unit for Indigenous Peoples issues / Indigenous focal point in the UNFCCC Secretariat, preferably under Adaptation, Technology & Science Programme
Ensuring direct, full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples

- Establishment of a voluntary trust fund to enable participation of indigenous peoples building on the functions and format of the trust fund set up at the CBD

- Ensure full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in subsidiary or UNFCCC managed funds, mechanisms, programmes and projects