



Submission by Active Remedy Ltd. provided in response to the call for submissions on purpose, content and structure of 'the local communities and indigenous peoples platform'

Active Remedy Ltd. appreciates the opportunity to submit our views on the purpose, content and structure of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples (LCIP) Platform.

We support the establishment of this platform because we are confident that the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities within the UNFCCC processes will contribute to strong and effective strategies for addressing and mitigating climate change. This would ensure that local knowledge perspectives, experience and innovations are taken into account and be in accord with Article 7, paragraph 5 of the Paris Agreement, which states:

“Parties acknowledge that adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate”.

The Purpose of the LCIP Platform

We believe that the LCIP platform needs to be comprehensive and transparent with the fundamental purpose of empowering indigenous peoples and local communities in climate adaptation strategies.

This should be carried out in a way that simplifies the processes for their active and meaningful participation within the UNFCCC COPS and climate related conferences.

The platform should work as a permanent forum to be held at each UNFCCC COP and inter-session, discussing specific LCIP issues regarding climate change, sustainability and the implementation of appropriate action plans.

The platform should facilitate high-level engagement in climate change decisions and actions and include the successful execution of existing efforts and UN and government agreements, regarding indigenous peoples.

It should work as a platform for bringing together indigenous peoples from all around the world and enable them to engage with local authorities and national governments and institutions about their lands and needs regarding climate change and adaptation.

It should be a platform, which recognizes and respects the rights of indigenous peoples, as recognised in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights legislation and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It should also provide the means to protect and enhance the positive roles and contributions of indigenous peoples to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

In order for the LCIP platform to perform the functions, which it is intended to, it should strengthen cooperation and mutual support between the Parties and LCIP groups and enable LCIP groups to have more comprehensive access to legal advice, funding, research and publicity. It should also empower them to enter into constructive dialogue with the Parties on the subject of implementing effective climate adaptation and mitigation actions. This would accord with 1/CP.21 paragraph 135:

“Recognizes the need to strengthen knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change,”

It should provide support for a series of national, regional and global-level dialogues between indigenous peoples and local communities and national governments to integrate LCIP perspectives and priorities into government negotiating positions.

The Content of the LCIP Platform

The content of the LCIP Platform should include high-level events and plenary level meetings, showcasing the knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation, at all the UNFCCC Climate Change COPS.

These should be led and organized by the indigenous communities and given full support from the UNFCCC.

The contents should include a website through which indigenous and traditional knowledge practices and experiences regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation can be shared and exchanged, with the purpose of helping to improve the lives and well-being of indigenous communities and the wider communities. This could include information needed for implementing action plans and means of doing so. This website should also include an interactive forum and function as a repository for indigenous knowledge, treatise, laws and information, as agreed upon by indigenous communities. It should also include links to UN and International funding sources to enable the implementation of this knowledge for addressing climate change issues and adaptation.

The platform should ensure an overarching human rights approach and respect indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge and include the obligation of recognising and protecting, cultural heritage, innovation, technologies, cultural expressions and spirituality.

The Structure of the LCIP Platform

The LCIP Platform could be structured in a comprehensive manner in a similar way as the UN Sustainable Knowledge Platform. Its main guiding principles should be inclusivity and transparency, so making it conducive to enabling clear dialogue and cooperation between parties, indigenous peoples and local communities. It could also be financially supported in a similar manner.

Indigenous people usually have extensive knowledge and experience concerning the preservation and restoration of ecosystems for climate adaptation. Therefore an ecosystem based approach for climate adaptation should form the foundations of this platform.

The structure of the LCIP platform should enhance the welfare of indigenous peoples and their communities, local and traditional communities and ethnic minorities, through recognising and supporting their identity, culture and interests, and avoid endangering their cultural heritage, practices and traditional knowledge.