

Anna Leinhe
1/10

**STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE AT
THE
HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE
12TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION FRAMEWORK ON CLIMATE
CHANGE AND THE 2ndCOP/MOP
November 17, 2006**

Thank you, Mr. President.

On behalf of the International Forum of Indigenous Peoples on Climate Change (IFIPCC), which is made up of indigenous peoples' organizations from different regions of the globe, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that more than 80% of the world's biodiversity and most of the forests are found within our territories.

As holders of traditional knowledge, we have carefully used and managed our natural resources through our wisdom for millennia. Our ecosystems have been drastically changed due to the impact of climate change as is clearly evident in many parts of the world. We, the Indigenous Peoples, live in the areas most vulnerable to climate change, which threatens our very survival.

Indigenous knowledge systems have the capacity to use local phenomena to predict and identify changes in the environment. For the future of the planet we all share, we request that our experts be included in the assessments of climate change in much the same manner as was done with the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment that has already fed into this Convention.

For this reason, we demand full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in all levels of planning, decision making and implementation of the programs of work of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, including the SBI program and the five year program of work of SBSTA and that the human rights-based approach be used in this work.

We, Indigenous Peoples, have addressed our concerns to the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties since SBSTA 13 in Lyon, France, 2000. However, despite years of experience and efforts to participate in this process, we are profoundly disappointed that, even as the United Nations' Second International Decade of Indigenous Peoples begins, states are still not seriously taking into consideration our demands and contributions.

To remedy this situation, Indigenous Peoples propose the immediate creation of an UNFCCC Expert Group on Indigenous Peoples, Vulnerability and Adaptation that will include Indigenous Peoples' experts and non-indigenous experts. This Expert Group will make constructive contributions to mitigating the impacts of climate change as well as allow us to contribute to the work of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. For example, we are eager to contribute to the preparation of national communications and capacity building activities under the Convention and Protocol. We would welcome your support of this Expert Group.

To conclude, Mr. President and member-states of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol, we thank you for your consideration of our demands and recommendations.

Thank you for your attention.