

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES  
FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE

# 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 I: Proposals for enhancing existing 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,
- ◆ Within the UNFCCC, since the early COPs, Indigenous Peoples have been actively calling for mechanisms that would allow the inclusion of our voices, solutions and knowledge in climate change decision-making,
- ◆ In line with Arts. 41 and 42 of the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which concern the full respect for, application of and application of the Declaration within the United Nations system, we recommend the following:

# Interventions

- ◆ Priority interventions in areas of work with direct impacts on indigenous peoples
  - Finance, Adaptation & REDD+ and the financial, scientific & technical issues related to the implementation of these
- ◆ Using models of “active observers”
  - include representatives of Indigenous Peoples with balanced regional representation
    - ◆ Able to take floor
    - ◆ Based on the experience of the Global Fund against Malaria, AIDS, TBC

# Access to closed door meetings

- ◆ In principle: Abandon the practice of closed-door meetings; negotiation processes must be fully transparent and accountable
- ◆ Participation of self-selected Indigenous Peoples, with balanced regional representation, in closed-door meetings on matters that are relevant for the enjoyment of our rights, lives and contribution of our indigenous knowledge
  - inter alia : Adaptation, Finance, Technology Transfer and REDD+

# Documentation

- ◆ Ensure immediate access to non-papers
  - notification to focal points of the online upload of these non-papers by the Secretariat
- ◆ Ensure opportunities and time to comment and/or provide input to all relevant documents
- ◆ Translation of these documents into working languages of UN

# Indigenous delegations

- ◆ Indigenous Peoples are representatives of many diverse peoples from different countries and often represent delegations of regional caucuses, and indigenous experts, rather than just observers from accredited organizations
- ◆ Representatives from Indigenous Peoples also typically reflect a balance that takes into account national, regional (and sub regional) agreements on land, tenure systems and territories, cultural and biological diversity, diversity of climate impacts, approaches for climate mitigation and adaptation, geography and gender
- ◆ In this regard, accreditation tied to allocations per organization raises issues for Indigenous Peoples as it limits our full and effective participation
- ◆ Explicit mention of the geographic representation of the proposed delegate could be reflected in Indigenous Peoples Organization (IPO) registrations, which would allow secretariat to consider broadening participation