



## Tebtebba

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**NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN**

### **Submission of Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples International Centre for Policy Research and Education), with the Indigenous Peoples' Global Partnership on Climate Change, Forests and Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup>**

**30 March 2017**

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#### **Submission to the UNFCCC on proposals for the incremental approach to develop the local communities and Indigenous Peoples platform, referred to in Decision 1/CP.21 Paragraph 135**

*Decision 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, and establishes a platform for the exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices on mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner.*

*This submission is a response to the call of the COP22 President proposing the following:*

- To adopt an incremental approach to developing the local communities and indigenous peoples platform, referred to in decision 1/CP.21 paragraph 135, with a view to ensuring its effective operationalization;*
- To request the Chair of the SBSTA to initiate the process to develop the local communities and indigenous peoples platform, which will include convening an open multi-stakeholder dialogue at SBSTA 46 on the operationalization of the platform to be co-moderated by the Chair of the SBSTA and a representative of indigenous peoples organizations;*

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<sup>1</sup> The Indigenous Peoples' Global Partnership on Climate Change, Forests and Sustainable Development was organized by Tebtebba in 2009. This indigenous peoples' global partnership is composed of 18 indigenous organizations and NGOs from 13 countries working on community strengthening, self-determined development and increasing indigenous communities' resilience to climate change. It is composed of: Tebtebba; Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN) and Institut Dayakologi (ID) - Indonesia; Maleya Foundation – Bangladesh; Silangan Dapit Sa Sidlakang Mindanao (SILDAP) and Naundep ni Napaknuhan ni Kalanguya (NNK) - Philippines; Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Research and Development (CIPRED) - Nepal; Centre of Research and Development in Upland Areas (CERDA) - Vietnam; Lelewal – Cameroon; Mainyito Pastoralist Integrated Development Organisation (MPIDO) and Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA) – Kenya; Dignite Pygme (DIPY) and Union Pour l'Emancipation de la Femme Autochtones (UEFA) – Democratic Republic of Congo; Asamblea Mixte para el Desarrollo Sostenible (ASAM-DES) – Mexico; Centro de Culturas Indígenas el Perú (Chirapaq) – Peru; Centro para la Autonomía y Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas (CADPI) - Nicaragua; Conselho Indígena de Roraima (CIR) – Brazil; Federacion por la Autodeterminacion de los Pueblos Indigenas (FAPI) – Paraguay.

- *To invite Parties and other stakeholders to submit, by 31 March 2017, their views on the purpose, content and structure of the platform in order to inform the multi-stakeholder dialogue;*
- *To request the secretariat to prepare a report on the multi-stakeholder dialogue, which should also draw on the submissions;*
- *To also request the SBSTA to consider the report at SBSTA 47 under a new agenda item "local communities and indigenous peoples platform" and conclude its consideration at SBSTA 47 by forwarding recommendations for operationalization of the platform to COP23.*

**RATIONALE OF THE SUBMISSION:**

1. Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples International Centre for Policy Research and Education), together with the Indigenous Peoples' Global Partnership on Climate Change, Forests and Sustainable Development, welcomes this opportunity to provide inputs to the UNFCCC COP22 Presidency's call for proposals to adopt an incremental approach to developing the Indigenous Peoples and local communities platform, referred to in decision 1/CP.21 paragraph 135.

2. This submission aims to contribute to Indigenous Peoples' Organizations (IPO) constituency ' proposals and supports the submission of the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) specific on the purpose, content and structure of *Decision 1/CP.21 Paragraph 135* covering two specific areas: (1) *the need to strengthen knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and Indigenous Peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change, and (2) the establishment of a platform for the exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices on mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner.*

3. The implementation of this significant decision is integral to the over-all implementation of the Paris Agreement and COP 21 decisions. This submission reiterates the implementation of the Paris Agreement preamble and decision on "the respect of human rights, including the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, women and other groups in vulnerable situations in the context of all actions undertaken to mitigate and adapt to climate change."

4. For Indigenous Peoples, the establishment and operationalization of the "Indigenous Peoples and local communities platform" would directly contribute to the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the ILO Convention 169, and other international human rights and environmental agreements signed by the Parties.

5. The development of this knowledge platform would also directly support the implementation of Article 7, Paragraph 5, CP/2015/10/Add.1 on adaptation actions, which states that:

*“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.”*

6. Likewise, the platform would contribute to national, regional and international cooperation as stated in the last paragraph of the preamble of the Paris Agreement as follows:

*“Agreeing to uphold and promote **regional and international cooperation in order to mobilize stronger and more ambitious climate action** by all Parties and non-Party stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, cities and other subnational authorities, **local communities and indigenous peoples.**”*

7. On the implementation of these specific provisions under the Paris Agreement and COP 21 decisions, Indigenous Peoples would continue to be committed as partners with Parties and other non-Party stakeholders for a more ambitious transformational change in addressing climate change.

8. The full, effective and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities is of prime importance in the development and establishment of this platform and other processes under the UNFCCC.

9. We put forward our proposals and recommendations below for SBSTA 46 consideration during the convening of the May 2017 open multi-stakeholder dialogue on the operationalization of the platform, to be co-moderated by the Chair of the SBSTA and a representative of indigenous peoples’ organizations, towards forwarding recommendations for operationalization of the platform to COP23 in November 2017.

## **PURPOSE**

10. The establishment of the Knowledge Sharing Platform of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities would facilitate and strengthen the engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities with Parties and other non-Party stakeholders within the UNFCCC processes. This would provide an opportunity to facilitate common understanding and shared learning on Indigenous Peoples’ perspectives, traditional knowledge, systems, practices, technologies, innovations, and experiences over generations. All these would encompass the diverse contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to

inform policy decisions and the implementation of climate adaptation and mitigation actions at global, regional, national and subnational levels.

11. This knowledge sharing platform would contribute to strengthening national, regional and international cooperation between State, Indigenous Peoples, and other non-State actors, based on mutual trust and respect. This would provide an opportunity to facilitate mobilization of support for more transformational and ambitious climate actions by all Parties and non-Party stakeholders at various levels.

## **CONTENT AND PROCESS**

12. We propose that this knowledge sharing platform of Indigenous Peoples and local communities should have a full program of work, with fund support under the UNFCCC, that would directly strengthen traditional knowledge and practices, customary governance systems, technologies, innovations and other efforts of Indigenous Peoples and local communities related to addressing and responding to climate change at various levels.

13. Under this knowledge platform, we propose that the UNFCCC, through its Subsidiary Bodies and Secretariat, convene thematic expert meetings and in-session knowledge sharing workshops with the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, with State Parties and other non-State actors.

14. These thematic expert meetings and in-session knowledge sharing workshops under the UNFCCC would be informed by national or subnational reports and case experiences of knowledge holders from Indigenous Peoples and local communities that would be presented in regional workshops to be convened by expert group of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The national reports and experiences and the regional workshops would be supported through regional and international cooperation under the UNFCCC to highlight contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to broader climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.

15. The identification and prioritization of thematic expert meetings and the selection of Indigenous Peoples' experts should be done through regional and global Indigenous Peoples' processes, based on their agreed criteria and terms of reference.

## **STRUCTURE AND PROGRAM**

16. With the development of the full program for the Knowledge Platform of Indigenous Peoples and local Communities, we propose that the UNFCCC Secretariat include support for the organization of a dedicated Indigenous Peoples' Day during the COPs, in addition to the continuing support for the Indigenous Peoples' Pavilion. These will be significant venues for a broader knowledge sharing on Indigenous Peoples and local communities'

contributions and best practices on addressing and responding to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

17. We further propose that within the UNFCCC Secretariat, an Indigenous Peoples' Focal Point be designated, primarily tasked to ensure the effective implementation of the full program on the Knowledge Platform of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

18. Finally, learning from the practice of other UN and multilateral bodies, we propose the establishment of an Indigenous Peoples' Expert Advisory Group with selected representatives from the seven (7) Indigenous peoples' regions,<sup>2</sup> based on Indigenous Peoples' regional and global selection processes. This Expert Advisory Group would be tasked to provide advice on the specific implementation of the relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement and COP decisions, including on the operationalization of the knowledge platform, and other related climate change adaptation and mitigation actions at various levels.

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<sup>2</sup> Asia; Africa; Pacific; North America; Latin America and the Caribbean; Arctic; Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia