



**Submission for Purpose, Content and Structure for the Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge platform, 1/CP.21 paragraph 135 of the Paris Decision.**

**1. Context**

Despite having great knowledge of climate change, indigenous people and local communities (IPLCs) around the world have been marginally involved in climate change discussions due to limited access, low visibility, imbalance of information, power and differences in world views. Diverse experiences have shown that indigenous communities have documented patterns and processes of climate change and their impacts on ecosystems and human communities, showing that these communities' knowledges on this issue are as valuable and diverse and the environment and culture in which they live.

Therefore, IPLCs should be seen as key actors in understanding, designing and implementing strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation. In 2015, COP21's final documents (the Paris Agreement and COP decisions) recognized the rights of indigenous peoples and their knowledge as relevant to the climate issue (under preamble and paragraph 5 of Article 7 of the Paris Agreement). To increase IPLCs participation in discussions on climate change, multidimensional approaches should be encouraged. In this regard, decision 1/CP.21 establishes, among several points, the creation of a platform to promote information and experience exchange between indigenous peoples and local communities as a way to reinforce their knowledge and technologies, according to 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".*

The development of this platform should be an important tool for IPLCs in the struggle for recognition of their rights and livelihoods, as well as promote ideas of



sustainable adaptation in response to climate impacts. With the platform, indigenous communities can share experiences and information, such as observations, adaptation and mitigation possible solutions and informations about funding. The exchange of observations and local knowledge should encourage the collection, preservation, exchange and use of local knowledge, and in this way facilitate the promotion and sharing of climate solutions. In addition to the IPLCs knowledge, this platform will also have the participation of other stakeholders, who can contribute with updated and relevant scientific information to iIPLCs in order to follow the one proposed in the Paris Agreement, Article 7, session 5: *“adaptation action should ...be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems”*.

This proposal provides guidelines to create this platform in accordance with COP21 resolutions, and aims to value and spread IPCLs contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation actions. This proposal was formulated by the Amazon Environmental Research Institute (Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia - IPAM) with the support and approval of the Indigenous Committee on Climate Change (Comitê Indígena de Mudanças Climáticas - CIMC), a group of indigenous specialists on climate change issues which is part of the Coordination of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil – APIB).

## **2. Purpose**

The development of a platform for IPLCs under UNFCCC has five main objectives: (1) to spread and strengthen the initiatives, strategies, knowledge and practices of IPLCs regarding climate change; (2) to facilitate the integration, articulation, partnership and exchange of experiences about mitigation and adaptation to climate change among IPLCs organizations and partners from different parts of the world; (3) to provide relevant technical information for IPLCs about climate change in accessible language (and translated in several languages); (4) to ensure that the rights of IPLCs recognized under Paris Agreement and the Cancun Safeguards are respected in climate-related actions and decisions; (5) to promote active and direct engagement and involvement of IPLCs in UNFCCC relevant meetings and guarantee the transparency of UNFCCC negotiations.



In order to achieve the objectives mentioned above, it is proposed: (1) the creation of an advisory and permanent multistakeholder technical body, recognized under UNFCCC, composed by: IPLCs (responsible by the coordination of the group), parties and non-parties. This technical body should be responsible for following COPs and relevant UNFCCC meetings , and for bringing to these meetings contributions from IPLCs that have been discussed in a regional and national level; (2) the development of an online platform, with its content defined by the technical body, for knowledge exchange of IPLCs, on the relevant aspects of the subject, as well as the availability of technical results from relevant meetings of UNFCCC, translated to several languages and in an accessible language for IPLCs.

With these objectives accomplished, the platform aims to respect and promote the rights of IPLCs, recognized in the Paris Agreement. This will also help to achieve a broad and qualified incidence of IPLCs, recognized by the UNFCCC as a decision-making body.

### **3. Structure**

The IPLCs platform should be considered as an instrument of theses group's protagonism, as well as the protection and affirmation of the rights over their livelihoods, lands, cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, self-determination, and free prior and informed consent. The platform's structure should reflect this purpose.

The technical body should be composed by regional representatives of IPLCs from diverse regions of the world (15 representatives) and 10 other representatives to be subdivided in parties and non-parties; gender representation shall be considered.

At the regional level, indigenous organizations shall convene preparatory meetings to consolidate information and positions prior to the UNFCCC global meetings. These preparatory meetings may be held as part of regular regional meetings of indigenous organizations. At the national level, States should convene national meetings focusing on indigenous peoples to discuss their concerns and contributions to climate change issues.



The UNFCCC secretariat should provide technical support, including logistical arrangements for meetings, as well as moderation, registration and translation for the meetings.

Technical body should be available to meet two days before each COP and other relevant UNFCCC meetings to discuss strategies and contributions.

Technical body should also be able to take information from the UNFCCC to regional and national levels, as well as taking considerations of these levels to international discussions. It should also recognize and strengthen local organizations/groups that can support its decisions. In addition, it should develop priority issues, guidelines and recommendations to the UNFCCC for actions on climate change based on the contribution of traditional knowledge of IPLCs and shared experiences on the platform.

The online platform should have its content advised by the technical body, also responsible to include in the platform the relevant decisions taken under UNFCCC for IPLCs. The UNFCCC secretariat should support its development, maintenance and supply, as well as dissemination to a broad number of stakeholders.

#### **4. Content**

The following content should be part of the platform:

- 1) Informations and decisions of the UNFCCC technical bodies (COP, SBTA, SBI, APA) relevant to the IPLCs, in accessible language;
- 2) Local experiences of IPLCs regarding adaptation and mitigation to climate change, in order to influence and guide actions, initiatives, policies and programs in these areas, at local, regional and international level;
- 3) National legislation of UNFCCC countries' regarding IPLCs and climate change;
- 4) Technical information about climate impacts and vulnerabilities of IPLCs.
- 5) Information of how countries' NDCs consider IPLCs rights and contribution to achieving its national goals;



- 6) Promotion of webinars to capacitate and empower IPCLs about climate change issues;
- 7) Network of contacts of IPLCs organizations and partners;
- 8) Information on the performance of IPLCs on public policies regarding climate change;
- 9) Dissemination and report of events relevant to the IPLCs about climate change;
- 10) Information on climate funds and other forms of funding for IPLCs.

Both technical body and online platform should be part of a specific program within the UNFCCC secretariat, which will serve as a focal point for the IPLCs on climate change. The program will, among others, be responsible for the host, management and maintenance of the online platform where IPLCs can exchange information and knowledge related to climate change actions.

Notes:

- (1) The platform should have a regulatory/protection mechanism in accordance with international law for the propagation of local experiences, and the right to free, prior and informed consent should be respected in order to avoid misappropriation of experiences, traditional knowledge, the use of images and cultural heritage.
- (2) The platform should be open to continuous submissions of experiences, but with specific periods for evaluation of the contents before making it available to the public.
- (3) The platform should be in line with international instruments that recognize the rights of IPCLs, such as: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; ILO Convention 169; American Declaration on Indigenous Peoples; Final Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP OD, 2014).



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