

Women's Environment & Development Organization

Views on the purpose, content and structure of the Indigenous People's Platform

The Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) welcomes the opportunity to share views on opportunities to further enhance the views on the purpose, content and structure of the platform in order to inform the multi-stakeholder dialogue, co-moderated by the Chair and a representative of indigenous peoples' with a view to strengthening the implementation of the provisions of decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 135¹.

WEDO supports the submission from the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) as well as the submission from the Indigenous regions of the Arctic, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Pacific (supported by the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests & Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indigenas de la Cuenca Amazonica - COICA) on the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' (LC-IP) Platform under the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

WEDO would also like to specifically highlight and reemphasize the critical need to respect and include indigenous women's rights and perspectives in all climate change policies. **This includes the need for the full and effective participation of indigenous women at all levels of decision and policy making and implementation including in the process of free, prior and informed consent. WEDO's views on establishing the LC-IP Platform are elaborated further below.**

Purpose

- The main priority of the LC-IP Platform should be to ensure the respect and inclusion of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities in all agenda items under the Paris Agreement. The Platform should ensure to uphold indigenous peoples rights in implementing and monitoring NDCs and in all climate actions.
- The LC-IP should serve as a space for knowledge sharing, exchange, and collaboration between IPLCs, the secretariat, governments, and other stakeholders. The Platform should provide the UNFCCC with direct information and advice on how to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities as well as promote holistic approaches. All recommendations made should be considered at COPs and all subsidiary bodies.

¹ Contact WEDO Co-Director, Bridget Burns, bridget@wedo.org, for more information.

Structure

- The Platform should meet at the global level prior to COP with preparatory meetings during the intersessional as well as regionally and nationally based preparatory meetings to ensure that LCIP can participate, engage, and incorporate local perspectives. Collecting information beforehand will ensure effective facilitation during the global and regional meetings.
- Ensure a budget with sufficient funds to provide technical assistance and capacity building directly to rural and indigenous communities, in particular rural and indigenous women to build and strengthen their capacity to participate in the LCIP and in relevant meetings (local, national, regional, international level).
- Include adaptive channels of communication according to the needs of LCIP. Consider the fact that such populations are often based in remote and isolated areas, with little or no access to technological platforms. Develop tools with indigenous communities to ensure that indigenous and local communities obtain a fair and equitable share of benefits arising from the use and application of their knowledge, innovations and practices.
- In addition to the LC-IP Platform there could be a funded program within the UNFCCC secretariat while taking into account previous and related experiences in other UN, international processes.

Content

- Among other key areas mentioned in the submissions by IIPFCC and COICA, WEDO suggests that there should be an additional key area (or topic within an established key area) that focuses on indigenous women's rights in terms of participation, leadership and capacity building.
- WEDO would also like to reinforce the importance of ensuring free, prior, and informed consent regarding the presentation and use of traditional knowledge; uphold the right to self-determination, the rights to participate in decision-making in matters affecting LCIP rights, and the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage.