



INTERNATIONAL
**INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES'**
FORUM ON
CLIMATE CHANGE

International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) submission on the Climate Finance Work Programme

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Introduction

The International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC), representing the Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPO) Constituency in the UNFCCC, welcomes the opportunity to provide views on the vision, modalities and elements to be addressed in the next year of the climate finance work programme, including on Article 9, paragraph 1, in the context of Article 9 as a whole.

Indigenous Peoples are collective rights-holders and key actors in climate action. Across regions, Indigenous Peoples govern and protect territories and ecosystems of critical importance for climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience, while maintaining knowledge systems, institutions and ways of life that contribute to addressing the climate crisis.

Despite these contributions, climate finance remains largely inaccessible to Indigenous Peoples, their institutions and Indigenous-led action. Implementation will fall short if climate finance does not reach the peoples and institutions undertaking climate action on the ground. The work programme provides an important opportunity to address these barriers and advance climate finance that responds to Indigenous Peoples' rights and priorities.

1. Vision, modalities and elements for the next year

The work programme should contribute to the effective implementation of Article 9, in accordance with common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC) and the obligations of developed country Parties to provide financial resources to assist developing country Parties. At the same time, the work programme should address the quality, accessibility and appropriateness of climate finance, including its sources, instruments and channels, and whether finance reaches and supports climate action where it is needed, including for Indigenous Peoples.

In this regard, decision 1/CMA.6 (NCQG) provides an important basis for addressing access to climate finance and Indigenous Peoples within the work programme. Paragraphs 22–24 address measures to improve access to climate finance, including simplified access procedures, locally led approaches and direct access, while paragraph 26 urges Parties and other relevant

actors to promote the inclusion and extension of benefits to Indigenous Peoples in climate finance efforts. The work programme should build on and help operationalize these commitments by identifying reforms and developing recommendations that can inform guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as well as action by other relevant climate finance institutions, to improve access for Indigenous Peoples.

Climate finance must also be delivered consistently with internationally recognized human rights and standards. The preamble to the Paris Agreement recognizes that Parties should respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples, when taking action to address climate change. This has been further reinforced by subsequent CMA decisions, including the COP30 decision on the Just Transition Work Programme, which recognizes the internationally recognized collective rights of Indigenous Peoples and reaffirms the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as a relevant instrument for informing just transition pathways.

The modalities of the work programme should ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, through their representative institutions and the IPO Constituency, across its activities and outputs.

In addition, the next year of the work programme should further address:

- **Advancing quality, effectiveness, and accessibility of climate finance**, including addressing barriers to accessing climate finance and promoting grant-based, predictable and appropriate financing, including through bilateral and multilateral channels and modalities that enable finance to reach those undertaking climate action. This should advance direct access for Indigenous Peoples.
- **Full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples as rightsholders**, including in the climate finance governance and decision-making, respecting their representative institutions and own procedures.
- **Rights and safeguards**, ensuring that climate finance does not support activities that undermine climate action, violate human rights, the collective and individual rights of Indigenous Peoples, undermine a just transition, or cause environmental or social harm.

2. Provision, mobilization and quality of climate finance

The IIPFCC recognizes the urgent need to significantly scale up climate finance to support climate action in developing countries, in accordance with Article 9, including Article 9.1. Climate finance should not increase the debt burden of developing countries or shift the costs of climate action onto those least responsible for the climate crisis. Debt-creating instruments should therefore be avoided in favour of adequate, predictable and grant-based public finance. Private finance and approaches dependent on financial returns cannot replace adequate and predictable public grant-based finance, particularly for climate actions that generate public and collective benefits rather than financial returns, including much Indigenous-led climate action.

The work programme should therefore address the need to:

- **Scale up new, additional, predictable and grant-based public finance**, including increased finance that is accessible to Indigenous Peoples and supports Indigenous-led climate action.
- **Increase support for Indigenous-determined and Indigenous-led climate action**, including holistic approaches that cut across mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, nature protection and resilience.
- **Establish and strengthen dedicated funding arrangements for Indigenous Peoples**, including through Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions, organizations, funds and Indigenous-led financing mechanisms.

3. Access to climate finance

Access to climate finance remains difficult due to complex application and accreditation requirements, differing requirements across funds, and limited readiness support. As a result, climate finance often does not reach Indigenous Peoples, their institutions or Indigenous-led action. The work programme should therefore address the need to:

- **Simplify access modalities**, reduce administrative burdens and transaction costs, provide appropriate funding sizes and timeframes, and make readiness and capacity support directly accessible to Indigenous Peoples and their institutions.
- **Advance direct access through Indigenous Peoples' institutions**, organizations, funds and Indigenous-led financing mechanisms, while reducing unnecessary intermediary layers.
- **Advance equitable access for Indigenous Peoples across all regions**, including exploring avenues for direct access to Indigenous Peoples across all seven sociocultural regions, while ensuring that developed country Parties' obligations under Article 9 are fully met. At the same time, the work programme should address how Indigenous Peoples can effectively access climate finance within countries, including by ensuring dedicated financing for Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous-led climate action through the implementation of NDCs, NAPs, LT-LEDs and other national climate policies and plans.

4. Transparency

Existing climate finance reporting and tracking, including under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, the SCF Biennial Assessment and reporting by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, does not adequately show how much climate finance reaches Indigenous Peoples, their institutions or Indigenous-led action. Strengthened tracking and reporting is needed to enhance transparency on finance reaching Indigenous Peoples. Reporting should distinguish between finance that is intended to benefit Indigenous Peoples, supports Indigenous-led action, and is directly accessed and managed by Indigenous Peoples' institutions. It should also identify Indigenous Peoples distinctly, rather than combining or aggregating them with broader stakeholder categories or with *local communities*.

Contact for this submission:

International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC)

Eileen Cunningham
IPO Constituency Focal Point

Email: ipofocalpoints@gmail.com

Email: eileen@cadpi.org

Website: <https://www.iipfcc.org/contact>