



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

International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) submission regarding the new 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, welcomes the opportunity to provide input regarding the new climate finance work programme. For IIPFCC, this represents an important opportunity to address persistent structural challenges in the accessibility, adequacy, and effectiveness of climate finance.

Climate finance, including under Article 9, is central to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to the delivery of climate action in practice. Its effectiveness should be understood not only in terms of scale, but in terms of whether and how it reaches the actors, institutions, and territories where it is most needed.

It also needs to ensure that climate finance is delivered in a manner that is equitable and consistent with existing commitments and internationally recognized human rights and standards. In this regard, the Paris Agreement preambular paragraph, as well as the COP30 Mutirão text adopted at COP30 reaffirm the need to respect human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples in all climate action.

In addition, the Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP) adopted at COP30, recognizes that just transitions must respect and promote the internationally recognized collective rights of Indigenous Peoples (para. 12(i)), and reaffirm the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as a relevant instrument for informing just transition pathways (para. 18). Those decisions affirm that climate finance must be designed and implemented in a way that respects and promotes the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Despite being among those most affected by climate change and among the most effective stewards of ecosystems critical to mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, Indigenous Peoples remain significantly underfunded. Climate finance is frequently routed through multiple intermediaries, resulting in delay and limited resources reaching the ground, and financed

projects are frequently externally designed, resulting in misalignment with Indigenous Peoples' rights, needs, priorities, and circumstances.

The following recommendations therefore focus on practical ways that the climate finance programme should address, in order to improve accessibility, adequacy, and effectiveness of climate finance.

(a) Overall expectations, outputs, and outcomes

Full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples: The work programme should ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, consistent with our status as collective rights-holders under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and in line with the JTWP. Participation should ensure Indigenous Peoples' meaningful involvement in identifying barriers, opportunities, best practices, and shaping recommendations. Without such participation, efforts to improve climate finance delivery risk failing to reflect realities and priorities on the ground.

Enabling direct access for Indigenous Peoples: The work programme should deliver recommendations to enable direct and equitable access to climate finance for Indigenous Peoples, including through simplified access modalities and dedicated funding arrangements. Current delivery models frequently channel finance through multiple layers of institutions, resulting in a loss of resources, delays in delivery, and limited alignment with territorial realities. For Indigenous Peoples, this has meant that climate finance often supports externally designed, short-term interventions rather than long-term, community-defined strategies. Reducing unnecessary intermediaries, and enabling more direct access is therefore essential to improving both the efficiency and effectiveness of climate finance.

Addressing the adequacy and quality of climate finance for Indigenous Peoples: The work programme should deliver recommendations addressing the quality of climate finance as it affects Indigenous Peoples. Climate finance must be delivered in a manner consistent with Indigenous Peoples' rights, including our right to self-determination, to lands, territories and resources, and to free, prior and informed consent, as reflected in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and reaffirmed in the JTWP, and is responsive to our needs and circumstances, including the special needs of Indigenous women, youth, elders, and persons with disabilities.

A growing reliance on complex financial instruments, private finance mobilization, and market-based approaches risks supporting activities that increase harm to Indigenous territories, exclude Indigenous Peoples from decision-making or that are not accessible to Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples have consistently emphasized that climate finance should not support activities that promote extractive industries, result in land dispossession, environmental harm, or violations of our rights. Addressing these risks requires not only stronger safeguards and alignment with Indigenous Peoples' rights, but also a shift towards finance

modalities that are accessible, predictable, and responsive to Indigenous Peoples' needs and priorities.

In this context, the work programme should explore options for scaling up climate finance under Article 9 as new, additional, predictable, and grant-based public finance. Particular attention should be given to how such finance can be delivered in ways that are accessible to Indigenous Peoples, consistent with our rights. Without such a shift, an over-reliance on private finance or market-based mechanisms risks continuing to transfer both the burden and the risks onto those least responsible for climate change, including Indigenous Peoples.

Indicators to track climate finance reaching and benefiting Indigenous Peoples: A further expected outcome is the development of approaches and indicators to improve the tracking and transparency of climate finance reaching Indigenous Peoples, as well as benefits for Indigenous Peoples. At present, there is limited visibility on whether finance reaches or benefits Indigenous Peoples directly or indirectly, through which channels, and under what conditions.

Access for Indigenous Peoples from all seven socio-cultural regions: The work programme should examine options to address the current structural gap whereby Indigenous Peoples in some country contexts are not able to access climate finance on an equitable basis. This should include consideration of how current climate finance channels and delivery mechanisms, additional approaches and, where necessary targeted reforms, could enable more equitable access to climate finance for Indigenous Peoples across country contexts.

(b) Thematic focus of the work programme

Improving access architecture and modalities for Indigenous Peoples: The work programme should examine the architecture of access, including how strategic programming, accreditation systems, funding modalities, and delivery channels can be adapted to enable more direct access for Indigenous Peoples. This should include simplified accreditation and access modalities, readiness and capacity-building support tailored to Indigenous Peoples, and approaches that support long-term, programmatic financing aligned with Indigenous Peoples' territorial governance.

It should also provide guidance for intermediaries on protocols and best practices for ensuring that climate finance is effective for Indigenous Peoples' and aligned with their needs and circumstances.

Human rights, the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples and safeguards: The work programme should address the need to align climate finance with human rights and the internationally recognized collective rights of Indigenous Peoples, including as reflected in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and must respect Indigenous Peoples' rights to self-determination, lands, territories, resources, and free, prior and informed consent, as well as the rights and protections for Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact. Particular attention should be given to ensuring that climate finance does not

support activities that undermine these rights or otherwise generate new pressures on Indigenous territories.

Adequacy and quality of climate finance for Indigenous Peoples: The work programme should address the adequacy and composition of finance, with a focus on ensuring that finance is accessible, predictable, and appropriate to the needs of Indigenous Peoples. This includes prioritizing grant-based funding, as well as ensuring that public finance obligations are fulfilled and not displaced by an increasing reliance on private finance or market-based mechanisms.

Furthermore, it should also support the need for the incorporation of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems in environmental management, mitigation, adaptation, and resilience-building strategies, in line with Paris Agreement Article 7.

Governance, accountability and participation of Indigenous Peoples: This should address the need for mechanisms to ensure the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in decision-making processes related to climate finance, improved transparency of finance flows, and mechanisms to assess whether finance is reaching Indigenous Peoples and supporting our priorities. This should consider how Indigenous Peoples' can play a greater role in monitoring and evaluating climate funds.

(c) Organization of the work programme

Participation of Indigenous Peoples from all seven socio-cultural regions, reflecting the diversity of our experiences and realities: The organization of the work programme should ensure and enable the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples throughout the process, including in workshops, technical inputs, and the development of outputs. This should respect the self-selection of Indigenous representatives through the IPO Constituency/IIPFCC.

In this regard, experience from mandated events under the UNFCCC, including those held in the context of climate weeks (e.g., dialogues under the Just Transition Work Programme or under the Mitigation Work Programme), shows that participation of observer constituencies is often limited to two or four in-person representatives.

For Indigenous Peoples, this approach does not reflect the diversity of Indigenous Peoples organized across seven sociocultural regions with distinct realities on the ground. Mandated events under the work programme, such as workshops and dialogues, should therefore allow for the participation of at least seven Indigenous representatives, with a view to ensure that Indigenous representatives of each of the seven sociocultural regions, as nominated by the IPO Constituency/IIPFCC, can participate, in order to ensure that discussions and outcomes are informed by a balanced and representative range of perspectives from different territorial realities.

We also consider necessary funding support to enable the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples, and of other rights-holders in the work programme.

Meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples in shaping the work programme: In addition, we recommend that Indigenous Peoples' representatives should not only participate in the work programme, but actively shape and facilitate its design and implementation. This includes serving as co-facilitators of sessions, including interactive formats such as workshops and World Café dialogues, and contributing to scene-setting and technical presentations. Ensuring that Indigenous Peoples' representatives and Indigenous experts contribute to framing discussions and presenting experiences is essential to grounding the work programme in practical realities on the ground and to supporting effective outcomes.

Dedicated engagement between Indigenous Peoples representatives and representative of climate funds: The work programme should facilitate dedicated dialogues and engagement between self-selected Indigenous representatives with representatives of financial mechanisms, particularly the Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism (GEF, GCF, FRLD), the Adaptation Fund, as well as other financial mechanisms.

Engagement of independent Indigenous experts: In addition to the self-selection of Indigenous representatives through the IPO Constituency/IIPFCC, we also recommend that Indigenous experts be invited to activities held under the work programme to speak on specific thematic issues relevant to their expertise. Those include e.g:

- The members of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG) of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), or other equivalent mechanisms.
- Representatives of Indigenous Peoples' own autonomous funds and mechanisms to manage funds.

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>