

Summary Report

REPORT OF THE THEMATIC IN-SESSION WORKSHOP:
ENHANCING THE PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES,
IN ADDITION TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, IN THE LOCAL
COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PLATFORM
25 NOVEMBER 2019

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Abbreviations and acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biodiversity
COP	Conference of the Parties
Declaration on the Rights of Peasants	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, United Nations General Assembly, (A/73/589/Add.2)
FAO	The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FWG	Facilitative Working Group
ILO	International Labour Organization
ILO Convention 169	Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) [The only treaty dealing comprehensively with indigenous and tribal peoples' rights, it has been ratified by 23 countries and is subject to regular supervision by the ILO].
LCIPP	Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity Building
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
IIPFCC	International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNPFII	United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

I. Executive Summary

1. The LCIPP of the UNFCCC held an in-session thematic workshop on *“enhancing the participation of local communities, in addition to indigenous peoples, in the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform.”*
2. This workshop was mandated by the COP, at its 24th session (COP 24).¹ The review of the outcomes and activities of the LCIPP, to be undertaken by the SBSTA in 2021, will take into account the progress made in relation to the representation of local communities.²
3. In this context, this thematic workshop was divided into two sessions. The first session focused on the concept of local communities, and their self-representation and self-mobilization in the international climate change processes. In the second session, participants deliberated over how to enhance the participation of local communities, in addition to indigenous peoples, in the LCIPP.
4. Through harnessing the collective knowledge of Parties, indigenous peoples, U.N organizations, civil society organizations and local community representatives, this workshop provided a timely opportunity to share experiences and bridge knowledge gaps towards enhancing the participation of local communities, in addition to indigenous peoples, in the LCIPP. Through identifying a shared purpose, it sought to create collaborative engagement on collective action.
5. Striving for gender balance is an important aspect of the LCIPP and this was taken into account in the organization of the workshop. Additionally, acknowledging the value of wide participation in the intergovernmental process, and with a view to enhancing inclusivity through engaging with diverse perspectives, the workshop was transmitted by [webcast](#).³ Remote participation was also enabled, see Annex VI for the list of questions that were submitted.

II. Introduction

A. Relevant mandates

6. COP 24 requested the secretariat to organize a thematic workshop, in conjunction with SBSTA 50, on enhancing the participation of local communities, in addition to indigenous peoples, in the LCIPP (see Annex I).⁴
7. On the same topic of enhancing participation of local communities, the COP also invited Parties to promote the engagement of local communities in the LCIPP with a view to enhancing their participation in the FWG and the Platform. In 2021, the SBSTA will undertake a review of the outcomes and activities of the FWG.⁵ In this context, the SBSTA will “take into account progress related to the representation of local communities, the addition of at least three additional representatives to represent local communities, as well as a

¹ Decision 2/CP.24, paragraph 22.

² Decision 2/CP.24, paragraph 4.

³ [unfccc/int/node/194677/](https://unfccc.int/node/194677/)

⁴ Decision 2/CP.24, paragraph 22.

⁵ Decision 2/CP.24, paragraph 27.

process for the appointment of such representatives, and an equal number of Party representatives” (decision 2/CP.24, para 4). The SBSTA will forward a draft decision to COP 27 on the representation of local communities on the LCIPP.⁶

8. The same decision encouraged the FWG to collaborate with other bodies under and outside of the Convention, as appropriate. In this regard, the secretariat engaged a wide range of bodies within and outside of the UN system to share relevant experience in enhancing the engagement of local communities related to climate change mitigation and adaptation.⁷

III. Key points arising during the workshop

A. Self-identification as a basis for self-mobilization

9. Based on the experiences of civil society organizations and indigenous peoples the self-identification of local communities is an essential prerequisite to ensuring their participation in the decision-making process.

10. This requires an element of capacity building on an institutional level to ensure a wider ambit of participation for indigenous peoples and local communities. Additionally, workshop participants suggested that it is important for local communities to be made aware of their rights. Their participation needs to be enabled through the dissemination of information in an accessible manner, through local channels and languages. Representation within governmental institutions and decision-making bodies ensures a collaborative process especially in the context of environmental resource management – ensuring accountable, transparent and participative decision making, resulting in the long-term sustainability of the outcome of such a process and reducing instances of marginalization and conflict.

B. The opportunities and challenges presented by a legal and policy framework defining Local Communities

11. While particular legal and policy frameworks were an important conduit to facilitate the mobilization, representation and participation of indigenous populations over the years, they present significant difficulties in enabling the participation of local communities (not included within the ambit of the definitions provided within these articulations).

12. The ILO Convention 169⁸ for example, provides a definition for indigenous and tribal peoples, but does not create a legal framework for the inclusive participation of “local communities” within decision making processes at the national, regional and international level. Similarly, a key outcome of the Expert Group Meeting of Local Community representatives, within the context

⁶ Decision 2/CP.24, paragraph 4.

⁷ Decision 2/CP.24, paragraph 20.

⁸ Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) [has been ratified by 23 countries and is subject to regular supervision by the ILO].

of the Article 8(j)⁹ and related provisions of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), was the development of common characteristics of local communities.¹⁰ However, the group reiterated that while these common characteristics could be used as a possible reference guide, the self-identification and the right to a self-identity were of the foremost importance in facilitating the participation of local communities in the process.

13. The Expert Group also acknowledged that due to the diversity of local communities, a possible list of characteristics should be broad and inclusive. Moreover, a local community could possess a cluster of characteristics, reflecting its own unique cultural, ecological and social circumstances.

C. Knowledge sharing can facilitate transformative action

14. A key outcome of the workshop was the emphasis on the significant repository of local and indigenous knowledge that can contribute to environmental decision making in a holistic and integrative manner. Participants noted the importance of the understanding, respect, transmission and safeguarding of traditional knowledge, the knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems. The experiences of some organizations exemplified the need to ensure the responsible transmission of local and indigenous knowledge. This would enable the empowerment of diverse knowledge holders, so that they may be able to use their traditional and local knowledge to preserve their local biodiversity as well as be directly involved in decision making processes with respect to the rights and obligations associated with the access to and preservation of the biodiversity, within their immediate environment.

15. The integration of local and community knowledge within school systems and curriculums, as has been encouraged by UNESCO within the Small Island Development States (SIDS), has been important in developing innovative mechanisms of addressing the impact of climate change on vulnerable populations and enhancing community resilience in a bottom-up manner.

D. A wider deliberation on participation within the international process requires inclusive spaces for sharing knowledge and experiences

16. The thematic workshop reiterated the importance of the LCIPP as an inclusive space to bring together diverse knowledge systems and work towards mitigating and adapting to climate change in a holistic and integrated manner. An inclusive platform for deliberative decision making ensures that important

⁹ Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biodiversity: Each contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate: subject to national legislation, respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge innovations and practices. The Article 8(j) Working Group: Ad Hoc Open-Ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

¹⁰ UNEP/CBD/WG8J/7/8/Add.1, 4 September 2011: The Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting of Local Community Representatives in the context of Article 8(j) and related provisions of the CBD.

socio-cultural, economic and historical factors are taken into consideration within environmental decision making. Practitioners and experts from across UN agencies and civil society organizations drew from their shared knowledge and experiences in facilitating the self-mobilization and enhanced participation of local communities, in addition to indigenous peoples, within the international process. A common thematic recommendation that emerged was the need for further dialogue and exchange, in addition to outreach under the LCIPP to facilitate an enhanced representation of local communities.

E. Challenges

17. As a result of being dispersed across the world with diverse sociocultural characteristics, local communities find it challenging to self-organize and participate in relevant international processes. Additionally, it is important to ensure that the participation of local communities does not hinder the process of representation and participation of indigenous peoples. Achieving a balance in representation as well as ensuring collaboration between the constituencies therefore requires a clear self-organization of local communities at the national, regional and international level. There have been important steps taken towards facilitating this on an international level, such as the efforts undertaken to formulate common characteristics of local communities within the Article 8(j) working group of the Convention on Biodiversity¹¹ and more recently, the definition of peasants as encapsulated within the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants.¹² A key issue on enhancing participation of local communities is the need for a wider level of knowledge and awareness of both the Platform and the UNFCCC process as well as a rights-based approach for ensuring inclusive decision making at all levels.

IV. Summary of Proceedings

A. Ceremony and open remarks

18. Chief Francois Paulette, Dēnesųliné elder of the Smith’s Landing Treaty 8 First Nation and Chair of the Dene Nation Elders Council, opened the workshop. He called upon the participants “to begin to listen to each other, open our hearts, open our minds, and our spirits” and use this workshop as an opportunity to learn from each other and share experiences to derive constructive solutions. He pointed out that changing climate is coming very fast. We need to prepare to survive as human beings and as people. In his spiritual reflections, he gave thanks to the Mother Earth, for her abundant gifts and protection from the wrath of the elements – underlining the fact that despite the different histories that shape individual narratives, it is a shared vision of the future that guides us towards creating impactful change.

¹¹ Ad hoc open-ended inter-sessional working group on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/7/8/Add.1, 4 September 2011: The Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting of Local Community Representatives in the context of Article 8(j) and related provisions of the CBD.

¹² United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, United Nations General Assembly, (A/RES/73/165, available at: www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/165).

19. The Chair of the SBSTA, Paul Watkinson, echoed this sentiment and pointed out that we should all consider how we relate to the world around us. “We may use different words. We may use different ways of understanding. One of the challenges that we face, and one of the opportunities we have with the work that we have created with the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform is bringing these different knowledge systems together,” said the SBSTA Chair. He emphasized the role of local communities and indigenous peoples, as recognized within the Paris Agreement. He also reflected on the outcome of COP 24 and noted that the decision encouraged the FWG to collaborate with other bodies under and outside the Convention. He noted the importance of the workshop as providing a space to enhance the participation of the local communities, in addition to indigenous peoples, both within the FWG and the Platform.

20. Mr. Watkinson appreciated the role of the workshop as an opportunity to learn from each other and derive a better understanding of the concept of local communities and their self-representation and self-mobilization in the international climate change process. This would present a vital opportunity to make important strides towards embodying the principles of sustainable development, through recognizing the collective unity of purpose.

21. This was followed by a statement from Andrea Carmen, as co-moderator of the workshop and member of the FWG. She provided a brief history of the FWG and the draft proposed initial two-year workplan, to be considered at SBSTA 51. In the context of the years of work of the indigenous peoples in their fight for recognition under the United Nations, she pointed out the need to differentiate between the constituencies of the indigenous peoples and the local communities. Such differentiation is especially important in the context of ensuring the self-identification and self-mobilization of the communities that would seek to be represented through the Platform. She emphasized the historical importance of self-identification for the indigenous peoples and recognized the need to grant local communities with the same respect, without defining the modalities and channels of their participation in the LCIPP.

22. Annela Anger-Kraavi, the vice-chair of the SBSTA and other co-moderator of the workshop noted that transformative change requires collective action. She welcomed the opportunity to learn about the meaningful impact of the work of other organizations on facilitating the representation and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

B. Interventions

1. Session I: Discussion on the concept of local communities, and their self-representation and self-mobilization in the international climate change processes

23. The first session was opened by Rita Mishaan, the Co-Chair of the Paris Committee on Capacity Building. She recognized local communities and indigenous peoples as key actors in the planning and implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions in developing countries. However, she noted that despite being an integral part of the economic work force, they were excluded from the decision-making processes in most countries, in part due to the lack of opportunities for their participation and engagement with the

government. Acknowledging the need to change existing patterns of consumption and production, she reflected on the importance of ancestral knowledge as a key mechanism in finding our way back to the land. She concluded by noting that indigenous peoples have always listened to the land and have complied with the laws of nature despite their exclusion from decision making processes, making it essential to give them the respect they deserve.

24. This was followed by an intervention by Maria Victoria Cabrera, a legal officer in the Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities Team within the ILO. The focus of her presentation was ILO's Convention 169.¹³ This Convention contains specific criteria for both tribal peoples, who are recognized as such through laws or regulations, as well as those who, irrespective of their legal status, retain some or all of their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions. Self-identification is therefore seen as a fundamental criterion for determining the groups to which the provisions of this Convention apply. Indigenous and tribal peoples are therefore granted the same legal protection under the Convention.

25. Gustavo Sanchez Valle, representing the Red Mexicana de Organizaciones Campesinas Forestales, A. C. (RED MOCAF) shared their experience in addressing the legal framework and alliances between indigenous peoples and local communities. Providing a historical context, he discussed how the 2001 Constitutional Reform on human rights and indigenous peoples culminated in a definition of indigenous peoples under Article 2 of the Mexican Constitution.¹⁴

26. The first panel session concluded with a presentation by John Scott, Manager of the People and Biodiversity Unit at CBD, who participated remotely in the discussion. His presentation was centered on the importance of engaging both local communities and indigenous peoples, as vulnerable but also resilient groups, as they work together towards achieving similar goals. He pointed out, that under the Convention, local communities and indigenous peoples are rights holders not just stakeholders, an important legal distinction.

27. Mr. Scott pointed out the need to conduct outreach to local communities now, especially when there are discussions about their participation, so that they can be part of that conversation. He also acknowledged that partnerships need to be built to engage both indigenous peoples and local communities, these partnerships can help to save lives and live in harmony with nature. Furthermore, he discussed the status of local communities and indigenous peoples within the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.¹⁵ As reflected within the Discussion Paper prepared by the Executive Secretary of the CBD, the role of indigenous peoples and local communities as well as their

¹³ Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) ratified by 23 countries and is subject to regular supervision by the ILO].

¹⁴ According to the definition (translated), indigenous peoples are those that have descended from populations that inhabited the current territory of the country at the beginning of colonization, conserve their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions or part of them; Indigenous communities form a social, economic and cultural unit, settled in a territory and have their own authorities according to their habits and customs and comparable communities include every community comparable to those will have in it the same rights. (- Original definition in Spanish).

¹⁵ Conference of The Parties to The Convention on Biological Diversity, Comprehensive and Participatory Process for the Preparation of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Decision 14/34, 30th November 2018. Available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-34-en.pdf> [*para 17: Requests the Ad Hoc Open-ended.

involvement in integrating local and traditional knowledge as a cross-cutting issue is a significant aspect of the post 2020 framework.¹⁶ With indigenous peoples making up 5 per cent of the world's population and representing the largest portion of linguistic and cultural diversity, he emphasized the importance of recognizing that their traditional lands and water maintain the majority of the world's remaining biodiversity. He also noted that the Permanent Forum, at its eighteenth session, recommended the production of a comparative legal study that analyzes the rights of indigenous peoples and the emerging rights of local communities.¹⁷

C. The open dialogue

28. The open dialogue presented the opportunity to hear from the participants of the workshop, as they reflected on the initial interventions of the speakers.

29. A delegate from Indonesia thanked the organizers for facilitating the meeting and noted that Indonesia has been a proponent in involving the local communities, who play a key role in the climate action efforts to rehabilitate 2 million hectares of peatland by 2020 and reduce peatland fires. She acknowledged that the local communities' contributions to climate change action is real and concrete in Indonesia.

30. The delegate from Costa Rica focused on the key challenge of identifying ways to enhance the participation of local communities in the absence of a constituency within the international process. Sharing his national experience, he noted the lack of a common understanding or legal framework on local communities. Local communities organize themselves within the country for different purposes, depending on regional or geographic specificities. Specific regulations provide for the participation of local and regional development agencies that have specific claims, such as improving water management or infrastructure. In this way, the government has been able to promote a legal framework to encourage the participation of civil society groups within different sectors.

31. This was followed by an intervention from a smallholder farmer from Germany, representing La Via Campesina, an organization comprising over 200 million peasants (pastoralists, fishers etc.) from across the globe, focused on food sovereignty and local control of food systems. Having been continuously involved in the UNFCCC process, including the COP 21 in Paris, La Via Campesina advocates for peasant communities that have been displaced to make space for industrial agriculture. She mentioned that a significant driver of

¹⁶ Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework Discussion Paper CBD/POST2020/PREP/1/1, 25th January 2019 Available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/d431/b38f/3d580bb73e7c2b5aaa286310/post2020-prep-01-01-en.pdf>.

¹⁷ United Nations Economic and Social Council, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 'report on the eighteenth session – 22nd April to 3rd May, 2019' E/2019/43-E/C.19/2019/10, Recommendations of the Permanent Forum [Para 12: "In the light of the emerging international legal framework for local communities, the Permanent Forum recommends that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) prepare, in consultation with other relevant United Nations entities, including the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and before 2022, a comparative legal study that analyses the rights of indigenous peoples and the emerging rights of local communities".] available at undocs.org/en/E/2019/43.

climate change, industrial agriculture also contributes significantly to the rural exodus and migration.

32. La Via Campesina thus focuses on advocating for holistic traditional practices, which would be able to address the disruptive impacts of climate change at the grassroots level. The intervention also recalled the recently adopted UN Resolution on the Rights of Peasants and other people working in rural areas (UNDROP) during the 73rd session of the General Assembly.¹⁸ Article 1 of the Resolution defines peasants within the declaration as “any person who engages or who seeks to engage, alone, or in association with others or as a community, in small-scale agricultural production for subsistence and/or for the market, and who relies significantly, though not necessarily exclusively, on family or household labour and other non-monetized ways of organizing labour, and who has a special dependency on and attachment to the land.”¹⁹ The organization believes that including peasants within a local communities group or constituency would render an element of historical justice to the affected communities, especially in the context of the impact faced by them within the current system.

33. Delegation representative from Ecuador voiced appreciation for the LCIPP and sought to share national experiences, recognizing the role played by Ecuador’s Constitution in recognizing the diverse identities of local communities and indigenous peoples within the State, as equal rights holders.²⁰ He discussed the concept of indigenous justice as the inclusion of different communities and populations, along with the right to reinforce their identity, the feeling of belonging to society and also being recognized institutionally. Situating his intervention in the contextual history of the peoples inhabiting the Amazon river basin, he reflected on the establishment of a National Council for Equality in 2014.²¹ This was established to ensure the further inclusion of peoples and communities so that they can share their proposals and experiences. He concluded by noting the need for a deeper understanding of the concept of local communities within the international community to enhance their participation on the platform.

34. The delegate of Cameroon reflected on the impact of climate change induced disasters across Africa and the risk that the indigenous peoples of Africa are increasingly faced with. He noted that indigenous knowledge is often not recognized, including within Africa. He also emphasized that indigenous science, rooted in the evolution of ecosystems and biodiversity, cannot be taken from its holders. Indigenous peoples must be included and must be able to participate in processes so that they can share this knowledge and the knowledge can be treated responsibly.

¹⁸ United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, United Nations General Assembly, (A/73/589/Add.2), Available at: https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/165.

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ The Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador, 2008, within articles 56, 57, 58, 59 and 60 recognize and guarantee “the collective rights of communes, towns, communities, indigenous nationalities, the Afro-Ecuadorian people and the montubio people forming part of the Ecuadorian, single and indivisible State.” Available at www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Ecuador_2008.pdf.

²¹ United Nations, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Human Rights Committee, Concluding Observations on the sixth periodic report of Ecuador (CCPR/C/ECU/6), 11th August 2016, CCPR/C/ECU/CO/6 [“The National Equality Council for Peoples and Nationalities was set up by the National Equality Councils Act, in 2014 to guarantee the rights of ethnic minorities.”].

35. The EU representative recognized that the workshop constituted an important milestone for the LCIPP. Noting that indigenous peoples have been very well organized over the years, he recognized the difficulty in finding the same level of organization for local communities. He added that the importance of enhancing the involvement of local communities in this platform was agreed, it is now a matter of how to do it. Thus, the interventions of local community representatives within this workshop was an important step forward in this process. He also noted that self-selection and representation are important criteria to facilitate the organic emergence and organization of local communities within international fora. He concluded by voicing appreciation of the process and welcoming further engagement of both local communities and indigenous peoples to make this platform a success.

36. FWG member Yow Mulalap asked a question about the reaction of Parties to the article 8(j) working group and the recommendations of the 2011 experts meeting on identifying local communities and enhancing their participation. In response, John Scott reiterated that the majority of the working group were in fact representatives of local communities.²² The objective was not to define local communities but to have a list of common characteristics so that there is a minimal risk of exclusion. Quoting Decision 12/12 and based on the Report of the Expert Group Meeting of Local Community Representatives he reiterated that the involvement of local communities at national, regional and international level has been historically limited. He also emphasized the need for equitable access to participation mechanisms such as the voluntary fund and capacity building workshops, as crucial to achieving the goals of the CBD.^{23,24} He therefore emphasized that targeted outreach to local communities has been important in that process.

37. In their closing remarks, the speakers addressed the comments from the audience as well as a comment from an online viewer regarding the means of

²² Report of the Expert Group Meeting of Local Community Representatives within the context of Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/7/8/Add.1 * 4th September 2011. Available at

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/tk/wg8j-07/official/wg8j-07-08-add1-en.pdf>. [para 6 “Experts”]

²³ Conference of The Parties to The Convention on Biological Diversity, Decision XII/12. Article 8(j) and related provisions, UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XII/12, [Para 8: “Many indigenous and local communities are engaged in community-based initiatives to enhance implementation of Article 10(c) at the national and local levels. An overview of such initiatives was presented at the meeting on Article 10, with a focus on Article 10(c) as a major component of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions.” (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/7/5/Add.1, para. 33. This presentation was based on a synthesis paper on examples, challenges, community initiatives and recommendations relating to CBD Article 10(c) by the Forest Peoples Programme and partners (October 2011): <http://www.forestpeoples.org/customary-sustainable-use-studies>]; Report of the Expert Group Meeting of Local Community Representatives within the context of Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/7/8/Add.1 * 4th September 2011. Available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/tk/wg8j-07/official/wg8j-07-08-add1-en.pdf> [“Para 14: “ The Chairperson, in his capacity of a participating expert and representative of a local community in Zimbabwe, provided a context to the discussions on local communities within the framework of the Convention through his presentation on the history of local community involvement with the Convention and critically analyzed statistics of participation, over a decade, to emphasis the case for equitable access participation mechanisms for local communities. He also discussed the need for greater involvement of local communities at all levels, local, sub-national, national, regional and international level].

encouraging the participation of local communities without defining them. They concluded by emphasizing on key factors that would aid in achieving the objective of the platform. These include recognizing the self-identification of local communities in the same way indigenous peoples have self-identified themselves, enhancing indigenous and local knowledge, evaluating lessons learned from the past and using the experiences of the indigenous peoples to broaden the platform as well as encourage a greater level of international participation of local communities and indigenous peoples.

2. Session II: Discussion on the concept of local communities, and their self-representation and self-mobilization in the international climate change processes

38. The first speaker on the panel, Grace Balawag from Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education) specifically emphasized the significant difference in the participation of indigenous peoples, and she noted the existence of legal frameworks (such as the ILO Convention 169) to facilitate this. In the case of local communities, she mentioned, even at the national level, there is a need for a national legal framework. She reiterated the principle of self-identification and the need for an organizational mechanism for enabling this. She agreed with Mr. Sanchez on the need to have clear organization from the national to the global level through the establishment of networks, and that this should inform the selection of any local community representatives within this platform.

39. Providing examples of successful community participation schemes, she reflected on the success of the grant mechanism under the forest investment program and the implementation of the forest management system in Mozambique. Similarly, the local community management of the climate smart cocoa production in Brazil exemplifies the success that Tebtebba has had in certain instances. However, there are some government programs in which local communities are settled in the territories of indigenous peoples, which has resulted in particular conflicts, in the context of resource management. This needs to be considered as well by the governments.

40. This was followed by an intervention by Nigel Crawhall, Chief of Small Islands and Indigenous Knowledge Section at UNESCO. He emphasized the importance of governance systems, which are as important as the knowledge itself. Reiterating the importance of self-identification, he specifically emphasized the correlation between knowledge systems, ecosystems and livelihoods. Part of the challenge with local communities, he mentioned, is their role as knowledge holders but the lack of a defined relationship with decision-making. Additionally, they also have rich knowledge systems around ecosystems and how the land is used. It is therefore important to recognize that the goal is not only to release data and statistics, but also recognize the fact that adaptation can only occur through local ownership of the process. He also emphasized that indigenous peoples and local communities can work together, and that their engagement can increase the available knowledge on climate change.

41. Yon Fernández-de-Larrinoa, Indigenous Peoples team leader at the FAO, shared the experiences of the organization. FAO has worked for over 70 years with family farmers on economic and livelihood activities. He noted that since

2010, FAO has been working with indigenous peoples on pastoralism. He pointed out that although indigenous peoples and local communities are different in many ways, there is an overlap in some cases. An important difference is the issue of collectivity versus identically managed land, both of which play a central role in confronting the climate crisis. He noted that there may be different definitions, although what remains is that despite governments changing, definitions being modified and UN processes evolving, the people and their relationship with the land remains constant. A major issue that indigenous peoples face is their invisibility and the subsequent jeopardizing of their access to other human rights. For example, in El Salvador, there was no recognition of indigenous peoples until recently and today it is one of the first countries that has a concrete plan to facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples.

42. Sharing the experience of the FAO in Mexico, he reflected on the importance of establishing a methodology to profile indigenous food systems. From their work in India with Himalayan mountain communities, they learned many lessons around climate resilience and evolving traditional food systems. The reliability of traditional yields has transformed completely, resulting in a need to move from traditional food crops to more market-oriented food. He acknowledges the need for resources to ensure participation of communities, while ensuring that the participation of local communities does not undermine the participation of indigenous peoples. He emphasized the difficulty with identifying experts to develop mechanisms of adequately allowing for the participation of local communities and indigenous peoples. He concluded that it is important to maintain a balance and ensure that the voices of local communities and indigenous peoples are reflected and listened to at the local regional and global level.

A. The open dialogue

43. The Co-Chair of the IIPFCC, noted that participation is interlinked with a rights-based framework, which identifies the sovereignty and nationhood of indigenous peoples. He also emphasized the importance of recognizing and addressing the key barriers to participation, including procedural obstacles such as the recognition of constituencies, badges and funding.

44. The delegate from Cameroon pointed out the value of local and traditional knowledge, underlining the importance of facilitating the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities to enable the exchange and sharing of such knowledge. He noted the importance of engaging local and indigenous knowledge holders to ensure the inclusion of indigenous peoples and local communities. He emphasized that inclusion is not just for the sake of participation, but for finding solutions together. He highlighted that Africa is a source of climate solutions, not only a place that is vulnerable to climate crises. The representative from the government of Chile thanked the SBSTA, FWG, Secretariat and all participants in this important workshop, which allowed for the sharing of knowledge to strengthen the participation of local communities. Pointing out the opportunities and challenges, he noted that in 1993 the government of Chile had the Indigenous Development Corporation, where 9 indigenous peoples groups were recognized. This was followed by the ratification of the ILO Convention 169 in 2008, which has been part of the national legislation since 2009. In the multilateral context, he noted the

participation of Chile in various initiatives, including in the year of indigenous languages. Chile also recently passed a law that recognized people of African Descent which would catalyse the process towards the recognition of local communities within the country. However, he acknowledged that there is a lot of work to do in the context of facing climate change and as the incoming president of COP 25, the Chilean government is keen to achieve the goals of the LCIPP process.

45. In her closing remarks, and in response to some of the interventions during the dialogue, panelist Grace Balawag reiterated the importance of the self-selection process of local communities, emphasizing the support of her organization in the development of this process. Yon Fernández-de-Larrinoa extended his congratulations to the initiative and reflected upon the need for a facilitative dialogue to ensure a wider participation in the discussion.

B. Closing summary

46. The narrative of raising ambitions and responding effectively to the call for urgency requires focusing on transformative action rooted in inclusivity - embracing a rights-based approach to recognition, participation and the protection of indigenous and local knowledge. Through this mandated thematic workshop, the experiences of the indigenous peoples' representatives, Parties, UN agencies, international and local organizations and community leaders paved a clear path forward in enhancing the participation of local communities, in addition to indigenous peoples, in the LCIPP.

47. The thematic workshop also provided an important starting point to develop further guidance on enhancing the participation of local communities on the platform through facilitating inclusive spaces for dialogue, creating wider channels for information and knowledge sharing and facilitating participative decision making in the international process. By considering key social, cultural, economic and historical narratives that have shaped structural hierarchies, the workshop hoped to develop a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges to enable the organic emergence of local communities on the Platform. It is important to ensure that the processes and policies that shape the way forward do not perpetuate existing inequalities but rather draw upon experiences and learnt lessons to develop an inclusive response that is rooted in diverse ways of knowing. This would ensure the development of effective climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions that enhance climate resilience for all in a transparent, accountable and participative manner.

Annex I

Mandates referred to in the workshop

COP 24 Decision 2/CP.24,

Para 4:

“Requests the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to consider, in the context of the review referred to in paragraph 27 below, and taking into account progress related to the representation of local communities, the addition of at least three additional representatives to represent local communities, as well as a process for the appointment of such representatives, and an equal number of Party representatives, with a view to recommending a draft decision on the representation of local communities on the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-seventh session (November 2021);”

Para 20:

“Encourages the Facilitative Working Group to collaborate with other bodies under and outside the Convention, as appropriate, aiming at enhancing the coherence of the actions of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform under the Convention;”

Para 22:

*“Also requests the secretariat to organize a thematic in-session workshop, in **conjunction** with the fiftieth session (June 2019) of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, on enhancing the participation of local communities, in addition to indigenous peoples, in the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform;”*

Para 27:

“Decides that the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice will review the outcomes and activities of the Facilitative Working Group, taking into account the reports referred to in paragraph 24 above, at its fifty-fourth session and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-seventh session with a view to the Conference of the Parties adopting a decision on the outcome of this review;”

Annex II

The Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

A. Overall purposes

The Platform is established “to strengthen the knowledge, technologies, practices, and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change, to facilitate the exchange of experience and the sharing of best practices and lessons related to mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner and to enhance the engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples in the UNFCCC process.”¹

B. Functions

a) *Knowledge*

The Platform should promote the exchange of experience and best practices with a view to applying, strengthening, protecting and preserving traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, as well as technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change, taking into account the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices;

b) *Capacity for engagement*

The Platform should build the capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities to enable their engagement in the UNFCCC process and the capacity of Parties and other relevant stakeholders to engage with the Platform and with local communities and indigenous peoples, including in the context of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and other climate change related processes;

c) *Climate change policies and actions*

The Platform should facilitate the integration of diverse knowledge systems, practices and innovations in designing and implementing international and national actions, programmes and policies in a manner that respects and promotes the rights and interests of LCs and IPs. The Platform should also facilitate the undertaking of stronger and more ambitious climate action by LCs and IPs that could contribute to the achievement of the nationally determined contribution of the Parties concerned.

¹ FCCC/CP/2017/11/Add.1, para 5.

PRINCIPLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE LCIPP



Annex III

IPO Closing Statement, Graeme Reed, International Indigenous Peoples 'Forum on Climate Change

Thank you, Chairperson,

The International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change,¹ welcomes the Workplan as proposed by the Facilitative Working Group on the Local Communities and indigenous Peoples Platform.

The UNFCCC budget process now underway should fund the FWG workplan. It is absolutely necessary that our traditional knowledge holders be informed as to the Platform and begin discussions and capacity building for their participation and the knowledge that they would share. If the platform is to be implemented in two years, that capacity building and information sharing is essential to a successful beginning. The Platform must be more than workshops or a web portal. It must influence and link with climate actions and policies at the local, regional, national and international levels, improving the lives and livelihoods of our peoples.

The needs of the Platform should not be pitted against other priorities, such as the enhanced effective participation in the climate change processes by Developing and Least Developed Countries and Small Island States. The Platform was adopted with great fanfare and joy in Paris. Its gestation was furthered, again with fanfare and joy in Katowice. It should now not become an abandoned child seeking charity for its survival and development. It too should be a sufficient and permanent item in the COP budget.

Our lands and territories are the source of our traditional knowledge. The mountains, the rivers, the forest, savannas, and oceans speak to us and guide our knowledge. We must listen to our Mother the Earth, our Father Sun, the rivers, and the winds from the four directions, in order to know our instructions. Sources of knowledge must be protected and sustained from unwanted and destructive so-called development, including the threats posed by the market and non-market approaches of Article 6.

Indigenous lands and forests are directly implicated in Article 6 market and non-market approaches. COP decision 2/CP.24 emphasizes the application in its entirety of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In this decision the CMA has made a commitment to the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There is a great inequality between the economic forces of unwanted unsustainable development and the sources of our traditional knowledge. These inequalities must be addressed through an observance and respect by States of Indigenous rights. States that generate ITMOs and states that apply them to their NDCs should report, as part of their Article 6 and NDC processes, on compliance with their obligations to the rights of Indigenous Peoples, the contribution of the ITMOs and related projects to the environment that sustains them and to Indigenous Peoples' sustainable development, as required by Decision 2/CP.24 and Article 6.

Thank you, Chairperson,

¹ See: <http://www.iipfcc.org/>.

Annex IV

Questions and comments from remote participants

- The platform sounds like a fertile ground for collaboration between local communities and indigenous peoples. It also presents an inclusive space for communities whose countries do not recognize indigenous peoples. How can we not define, but encourage local communities to self-mobilise and participate in this platform?
- What are some of the complementarities between indigenous knowledge and western science, especially through participatory research and the application of new technologies?

Annex V

List of Participants

The following is an indicative list of organizations that were represented at the thematic workshop, based on the registration sheet circulated at the workshop.

- All India Dawah Centres Association (AIDCA)
 - Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)
 - Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU)
 - Cardiff University
 - Center for Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North (Russia) (CSIPN)
 - Centro para la Autonomía y Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas (CADPI)
 - Climate Action Network (CAN) International
 - Conservation International (CI)
 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 - Eco-Action
 - Environmental Paper Network (EPN)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 - Gender CC – Women for Climate Justice
 - Green Aid Africa
 - Haudenosaunee
 - International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests (IAITPTF)
 - International Conference on Comparative Genomics and Interactomics for Agriculture (ICCGIA)
 - Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)
 - Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA)
 - International Labour Organization (ILO)
 - International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)
 - Korea Environment Institute (KEI)
 - Max Planck Institute
 - National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)
 - Native America Rights Fund (NARF)
 - Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC)
 - Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN)
 - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
 - Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia (ONIC)
 - Oxfam
 - Perempuan Aman
 - The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
 - The Center for Sustainable Development of the University of Brasília
 - The European Union - Latin America and the Caribbean Foundation (CARE EU-LAC)
 - The Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)
 - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
 - United Nations Development Programme Global Environmental Finance (UNDP-GEF)
 - University of Arizona
 - University of Bonn
 - University of Michigan
 - World Council of Churches
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