

Respected Sir/Ma'am,

Greetings from Paryavaran Mitra!

Paryavaran Mitra is an India-based organization working on socio-environmental issues since 1997 to advocate for human rights in the face of growing environmental degradation and pollution. We are working extensively for increasing public participation in the environmental decision-making process in the state of Gujarat.

We like to give our suggestions for Call for inputs on meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

1. What are the current or anticipated challenges Indigenous Peoples and local communities face in engaging with the Article 6.4 mechanism?

Ø We like to draw your attention to the fact that local communities are unaware about the ongoing UN processes, for e.g., they are not aware about the provisions of article 6.4 and possible benefit/loss to them under any processes. They are not in a position to intervene in any way due to primary information regarding this. It is difficult for them to identify activities, plans and policies that may affect them and their livelihood.

2. What mode of communication could facilitate better dialogue between the Supervisory Body and Indigenous communities?

Ø **Include stakeholders** - It is important to include all relevant stakeholders in the process - government, industry, NGO or academic representatives—to facilitate dialogue with Indigenous Peoples and local communities. It is good involve informal leaders as well as official representatives. It is important to pay particular attention and respect to the knowledge and perspectives of elders.

Ø **Involvement of Local teams** – it is good to involve local government representatives, local UN representatives and local CSO representatives.

Ø **Local language, local context** – If we can able to communicate in their language by providing local context of the problem, it will be very good for better dialogue.

Ø Use in-person communication and written or web-based communication in local language.

3. How would you envision meaningful long-term engagement and active participation from Indigenous Peoples and local communities on the work of the Supervisory Body and the mechanism?

Ø **Legal and established practices** - It is important to identify whether there are legal requirements for engagement or any established approaches that are already in place.

Ø **Awareness campaign** – to involve Indigenous Peoples and local communities, awareness campaign with local flavour will be useful.

Ø **Time** - Early notification can help provide Indigenous Peoples and local communities with the information necessary to participate in meaningful engagement.

Ø **Comfortability** - consider potential influences or barriers and fix them so local communities will express their views.

Thanking you,

Mahesh Pandya (Director)

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