

2019

Summary Report

Informal dialogue between representatives of constituted bodies on the three functions of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

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18 June 2019, 9:00-10:00

I. Executive Summary

An informal open dialogue between representatives of constituted bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place at the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June 2019. The dialogue focused on potential synergies and collaborations between other constituted bodies and the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) on the implementation of the three functions of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP).

Highlighting shared mandates and concrete opportunities for collaboration, participants outlined a path forward towards implementing the Platform's three functions: *knowledge, capacity for engagement, and climate change policies and actions*.

Inclusivity was one of the key themes that emerged from the dialogue, considering the concerns and contributions of all stakeholders including indigenous peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process. Participants discussed the importance of focusing on adaptation, including the importance that policies foster the adaptive capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities. The usefulness of regional focus in future collaborative initiatives was also highlighted in the dialogue. Finally, participants emphasized that climate change is a present and growing concern. The impacts of climate change as well as the solutions to address them are here now. The participants agreed that synergistic collaborations between the FWG and other constituted bodies can lead to an enhanced response to the challenges of climate change.

II. Introduction

The Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) was established at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) and fully operationalized at COP 23 in November 2017. This is a summary report of the first activity that took place at the 50th session of the subsidiary bodies (SB50) related to the implementation of the functions of the Platform.¹ The report provides a written record of the open dialogue for future discussions and actions.

COP 24 “[e]ncourages 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”. This informal dialogue was the first initiative to facilitate the exchange between representatives of constituted bodies and the FWG on the three functions of the LCIPP in pursuant to the mandate.

The next section of this report outlines the main points raised and discussed at the informal open dialogue. During the discussion, a number of constituted body representatives shared their views on how collaboration and synergies between the FWG and other bodies under the Convention could be enhanced. The concluding section of this report notes that this is an initial step towards enhanced coherence under the UNFCCC. Participants would like to see these ideas materialize in the form of

¹ The Conference of the Parties, by decision 2/CP.24 paragraph 23, requested the secretariat to develop, under the incremental approach for the operationalization of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, activities related to the implementation of all three functions of the Platform, at each session of the SBSTA until the workplan is adopted.

outcomes. Most importantly, representatives of the constituted bodies expressed their commitment to engage indigenous peoples and local communities in activities across the UNFCCC.

III. Discussion during the informal open dialogue

Andrea Carmen, a member of the FWG, opened the dialogue with a ceremonial song. The song calls upon the Creator: “Help us Creator, our People want to live, take pity on us Creator, our People want to live”.

Pasang Dolma Sherpa, Co-Chair of the Facilitative Working Group (FWG), started the dialogue and emphasized that the FWG’s objective is to further operationalize the Platform’s functions. She pointed out that the membership composition of the FWG marks a historic milestone under the UNFCCC, where equal number of indigenous peoples’ representatives and government representatives working together towards a common climate goal.

Majid Shafie-Pour, Co-Chair of the FWG, noted that the goal of the informal dialogue is to discuss synergies and potential areas of collaboration under the LCIPP. He invited the participants to share their thoughts and visions on how different constituted bodies may contribute to the implementation of the functions of the LCIPP.

Rita Mishaan, Co-Chair of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB), emphasized the shared commitment of the LCIPP, and PCCB to enhance capacity for engagement. She noted that the PCCB has been working for the past three years to establish interlinkages with gender, indigenous peoples, and human rights. Ms. Mishaan further highlighted some concrete areas of potential collaboration. She invited the FWG to participate in the PCCB’s second Capacity-building Hub at COP 25 to promote the LCIPP and share views from indigenous peoples on capacity-building-related issues. She also suggested that it would be valuable to identify linkages between PCCB’s Capacity-building portal and the dedicated LCIPP web portal, which is to be developed. Ms. Mishaan noted that the PCCB has been working with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to build capacity and integrate human rights in climate action. One such effort is an upcoming workshop, where the PCCB has invited FWG members to participate and facilitate. Finally, Ms. Mishaan indicated that the PCCB is producing an online training focused on building capacity for integrating human rights into climate action. She proposed that the training modules could be jointly developed with the FWG.

Marianne Karlsen, Co-Chair of the Adaptation Committee, congratulated the FWG on the successful delivery of its first meeting and the election of the Co-Chairs. She pointed out that, given that local communities and indigenous peoples are at the frontlines of climate change, adaptation is one of the key technical areas to consider. One of the purposes of the Adaptation Committee is to make sure that everyone is included in building knowledge and coherence and to provide advice and technical support to Parties. Ms. Karlsen highlighted some areas where the FWG and the Adaptation Committee could collaborate to implement the functions of the LCIPP. She highlighted two technical papers² where the FWG’s contribution would be particularly valuable. The first technical paper (2020) is on connecting short, medium and long-term adaptation planning at the national and subnational levels, including data and financial flows. The second technical paper (2021) is on information and methodologies for assessing progress in enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change. Ms. Karlsen noted that “the Adaptation Committee would like to work together with the Platform not only on technical papers but also on the general work that we do to integrate the issue of local communities and indigenous peoples, based on the very thorough and solid knowledge that this Platform has”.

² See: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/20190411_ac_workplan_revised_web.pdf

Andrea Carmen, a FWG member, suggested to create a plan specifically addressing adaptation at COP 25. Ms. Carmen noted that, for at least the past fifty years, indigenous peoples have been talking about adaptation strategies and the need to revive and strengthen traditional knowledge. She said that “we have specifically been engaging in revitalizing our traditional trade routes for key nutritional and spiritually-based food that we traded with Rapa Nui. We have many tribal nations in North America that are bringing back American bison that can withstand variances in climate that cattle cannot”. Ms. Carmen indicated that these adaptation strategies are closely tied with efforts to restore traditional grassland practices that can hold the soil in times of extreme weather events, and that there are many other examples of such adaptation practices being put into practice. She also pointed out that some adaptation strategies could have a significant policy impact as well. For example, introducing genetically modified seeds can undermine indigenous peoples’ adaptive capabilities—which is why indigenous people “need to also come together to point out some of these discrepancies that are undermining their adaptive capacity in conjunction with the knowledge of the natural world”.

Orly Jacob, Chair of the Advisory Board of the Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN), explained that the CTCN provides technical assistance and offers knowledge sharing services. She underlined that the CTCN welcomes more requests from underserved communities, including from indigenous peoples. Given that these functions fall explicitly in the mandate of both bodies, she believes that there is a fertile ground for an effective partnership with the LCIPP.

One of the themes that emerged during the discussion was the role of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Mr. Clement Yow Mulalap, the SIDS representative on the FWG, indicated that there are many island-communities that have traditional knowledge, such as making coral and mangrove ecosystems more resilient, and that it will be interesting to bring this knowledge to the forefront. He thanked Ms. Jacob for her comments and added that collaboration could be organized through national focal points. He added that it is equally important to recognize that not every entity might be able to go to a national focal point.

Adao Barbosa Soares, a member of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), was pleased that participants have discussed many elements with regards to enhancing collaboration within the UNFCCC. He recalled COP.17 decision indicating that enhanced action on climate change adaptation “should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional and indigenous knowledge, and by gender-sensitive approaches, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate”.³ The LEG’s technical work includes technical guidance training and outreach and there is a pressing need to focus on vulnerable groups and communities. Mr. Barbosa Soares indicated that he looks forward to collaborating with the FWG and contribute to the work under the LCIPP to reduce vulnerabilities at the national level.

Dinara Gershinkova, Chair of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC), shared possible future collaborations between the TEC and the FWG, under the LCIPP. The TEC is an arm of the Technology Mechanism that develops policy recommendation for Parties and various stakeholders to help them implement climate strategies and actions. She recognized the importance of considering indigenous capacity and knowledge in the TEC’s work. She also highlighted the unique historical knowledge of indigenous peoples with regards to climate change. She further noted that inclusiveness is one of the principles of the framework of TEC and that the TEC workplan considers indigenous knowledge. This workplan is scheduled to be adopted at the next TEC meeting in the autumn. In addition, gender is one of the core elements of the work of the TEC. Ms. Gershinkova welcomed the opportunity to discuss and enhance the visibility of these linkages.

³ See: Decision 5/CP.17: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/docs/2011/cop17/eng/09a01.pdf>

Alpha Oumar Kaloga, a member of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM), welcomed the opportunity to share the Executive Committee’s work and explore possibilities to enhance the coherence of its actions with the LCIPP. Mr. Kaloga noted that “while indigenous peoples are the most vulnerable to climate change, they have the potential to contribute to climate change solutions”.

The core functions of the WIM are enhancing knowledge, strengthening dialogue and enhancing capacity building with respect to loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change. Mr. Kaloga highlighted non-economic losses (NELs), one of the five workstreams of the Executive Committee, as a potential area for collaboration with the LCIPP. NELs, including losses of health, cultural heritage, and rights, are particularly pertinent to local communities and indigenous peoples. Mr. Kaloga highlighted specific collaborative opportunities around collecting and synthesizing information on available tools to assess NELs, coordinating outreach programmes and stakeholder engagement to enhance the visibility of NELs, coordinating joint capacity-building events, and engaging experts from local communities and indigenous peoples in averting, minimizing and addressing NELs.

Finally, Mr. Kaloga also highlighted collaborative opportunities on knowledge dissemination. Examples of possible collaboration include submitting an abstract to the WIM Executive Committee’s special issue journal on slow onset events, sharing knowledge products via Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer, and participating in upcoming events.

Gervais Ludovic Itsoua Madzous, Chair of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), shared possible collaborative opportunities between the FWG and the CGE. He explained that the CGE supports the implementation of the Paris Agreement by providing technical advice. The CGE offers workshops and training programs covering mitigation and adaptation assessment, amongst others, all of which could be expanded to cover the topic of local communities and indigenous peoples. Mr. Itsoua Madzous invited the FWG to prepare some relevant material to be shared through the CGE.

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, a member of the FWG, pointed out that the main issues for indigenous peoples is adaptation. In Africa, communities are already using traditional knowledge to make food systems more resilient. She welcomed the collaborative opportunities and wanted to see how the LCIPP can focus more at the regional level, beyond the UNFCCC process. She further indicated that one of the key areas should be inclusiveness.

Figure 1. Summary of potential collaborative opportunities between the LCIPP and other constituted bodies

Relevant actors	Collaborative action item	Timeline
<i>AC and FWG</i>	Inviting members of the AC and the FWG to each other’s biannual meetings ⁴	AC meets twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall FWG meets twice in conjunction with the sessions of the subsidiary bodies and the session of the COPs
<i>FWG</i>	AC invited the FWG to designate AC contact point/s. ⁵	

⁴ Outcome of the bilateral meeting between the Co-Chairs of the AC and FWG, held on June 20, 2019.

⁵ As footnote 3 above

<i>AC and FWG (and the LEG, NWP and other relevant bodies)</i>	Co-organizing a dialogue/workshop at COP25 in Chile to build upon the AC-NWP workshop ⁶ in 2014 on sharing best practices and indigenous and traditional knowledge. The result of this dialogue contributes to the AC technical paper due to be published in 2020, ⁷ and to the work under the LCIPP.	Dec. 2019 (COP 25)
<i>FWG</i>	Co-Chair of the AC invited the FWG members to review and provide feedback on the concept note and draft of AC's 2020 technical paper, which will focus on connecting short-, medium-, and long-term adaptation planning at the national and subnational levels, including data, financial flows and others.	2020
<i>FWG</i>	Co-Chair of the AC invited the FWG to provide input into a technical paper (2021) on information and methodologies for assessing progress in enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change.	2021
<i>CGE</i>	The CGE expressed flexibility and interest to expand its work on training programs to cover topics related to local communities and indigenous peoples.	
<i>CGE and LCIPP</i>	The CGE offered to help disseminate relevant work of the LCIPP through existing communication channels of the CGE.	
<i>LEG and LCIPP</i>	LEG invited the FWG to contribute to Open NAP. ⁸	
<i>LEG and LCIPP</i>	LEG invited the FWG to contribute to Integrated Framework for NAPs. ⁹	
<i>PCCB and FWG</i>	Identifying linkages between the PCCB's Capacity-building portal and the dedicated LCIPP web portal (to be developed)	
<i>FWG</i>	PCCB invited the FWG to participate in the PCCB's second Capacity-building Hub.	Dec. 2019 (COP 25)
<i>PCCB and FWG</i>	Developing joint online training modules focusing on building capacity for integrating human rights into climate action	
<i>WIM Excom and LCIPP</i>	WIM Excom invited the FWG to collaborate on non-economic losses (NELs), including on collecting and synthesizing information on	

⁶ See: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/docs/2014/sbsta/eng/inf11.pdf>

⁷ As footnote 3 above

⁸ Outcome of the bilateral meeting between the chair of the LEG and the Co-Chairs of the FWG, held on June 22, 2019.

⁹ As footnote 6 above.

	available tools to assess NELs, coordinating outreach programmes and stakeholder engagement to enhance visibility of NELs, coordinating joint capacity-building events, and engaging experts from local communities and indigenous peoples in averting, minimizing and addressing NELs.	
<i>WIM Excom and LCIPP</i>	WIM Excom invited the FWG to disseminate knowledge using its existing communication channels, including WIM Excom’s special issue journal on slow onset events and Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer ¹⁰ .	
<i>WIM Excom and LCIPP</i>	WIM Excom invited the FWG to participate in its future events	

IV. Conclusion

In their closing remarks, participants reiterated their commitment to enhance the engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in addressing climate change. They emphasized the need to facilitate collaboration with the FWG on the implementation of the three functions of the LCIPP.

FWG Co-Chairs Pasang Dolma Sherpa and Majid Shafie-Pour encouraged participants to enhance the integration of issues related to indigenous peoples and local communities in their work. They have challenged the participants to turn the collaborative opportunities into concrete actions and address climate change challenges in a holistic and integrated manner and leave no one behind.

¹⁰ See: <http://unfccc-clearinghouse.org/>

Annex I.

List of constituted bodies represented at the dialogue

- Adaptation Committee (AC)
- Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN)
- Consultative Group of Experts (CGE)
- Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM)
- Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG)
- Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB)
- Technology Executive Committee (TEC)
- Standing Committee on Finance (SCF)

Annex II.

Outcomes of the bilateral meeting between the Co-Chairs of the Adaptation Committee (AC) and the Facilitative Working Group (FWG)

20 June 2019, 11:00-11:45am

The purpose of the bilateral meeting was to explore further opportunities for collaboration between the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) and the Adaptation Committee (AC).

Ms. Marianne Karlsen, Co-Chair of the Adaptation Committee, noted that in 2014 the Adaptation Committee and the Nairobi work programme (NWP) hosted a joint workshop on indigenous peoples and traditional knowledge. The outcomes of this event were integrated in a technical paper. Ms. Karlsen noted that she sees a potential to work with the LCIPP in a similar manner. In particular, there is a possibility to find an area where the constituted bodies could work together in Santiago at COP 25.

To coordinate the work of the two constituted bodies, Ms. Karlsen suggested that the LCIPP could participate in the AC's meeting, held twice a year in the fall and in the spring. Another way to ensure the continuous collaboration between the AC and the LCIPP would be through the development of reports and technical papers. The next technical paper will be published in 2020—and inducing the perspectives of indigenous peoples and local communities in this paper is of paramount importance. To integrate these views, Ms. Karlsen noted that the AC could share the paper's outline and drafts with the LCIPP and the LCIPP could provide any input and comments.

Ms. Karlsen also suggested that the Co-Chairs of the FWG and AC could establish regular contact to update each other on ongoing projects to see where any common interests and collaborative opportunities might emerge.

Mr. Majid Shafie-Pour suggested that the AC and the LCIPP organize a joint workshop at COP25 on traditional and indigenous knowledge and adaptation with a view to exchange views and develop ideas on this subject. It was also suggested that a tri-partnership could be formed together with the Least Develop Countries Expert Group (LEG) to host a workshop, which could then feed into the AC's technical papers.