

**Statement of the
International Forum of Indigenous Peoples on Climate Change (IIPFCC)
SBSTA
December 1, 2008**

Chair,

The International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC), representing Indigenous Peoples from all parts of the world met from 27–29 November 2008 here in Poznan, Poland, to prepare for the Fourteenth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC.

We, the Indigenous Peoples are suffering the worst impacts of climate change without having contributed to its creation. Mitigation and adaptation strategies, schemes and related processes, many of which we believe offer false solutions to the problem at hand, threaten our rights and our very existence. Mitigation projects, including REDD and CDM, as well as land conversion projects for bio and agrofuel implemented by Parties and private sector are carried out without the free prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples thereby affecting our livelihoods and violating our human rights.

These projects are encroaching on areas of lands sacred to us, violate our rights to our lands, territories and natural resources, and result in the forced eviction of many of our brothers and sisters from their ancestral territories.

Furthermore, proposed ‘scientific’ mitigation and adaptation solutions, methodologies and technologies being discussed here and elsewhere do not reflect Indigenous Peoples’ cosmovision and our ancestral knowledge and violate or threaten our human rights.

We may also need to discuss at some point of time, the ecological debt that especially industrialized countries have with the Indigenous Peoples of the world.

So-called ‘consultations’ with us, often only take the form of simply informing our communities. Consultations should not be limited to specific communities and organizations but should involve all affected and involved indigenous peoples, including our representative organizations.

We the Indigenous Peoples, are rights-holders in the discussions, not stakeholders. We demand full participation in the implementation of all areas of work concerning Climate Change and Forests.

We put the following recommendations forward:

- To ensure a rights-based approach in the design and implementation of climate change policies, programmes and projects. In particular, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples must be recognized, implemented and mainstreamed in all of the Convention activities;
- To ensure the right to Free Prior and Informed Consent, and other internationally recognized standards of good governance in the planning and implementation of all climate change-related policies, programmes and projects;
- To develop more appropriate methodologies and tools for impact and vulnerability assessments, in consultation with Indigenous Peoples;

- To recognize and use traditional knowledge being at least equally important as mainstream-scientific knowledge, when assessing impacts and coming up with adaptations;
- To immediately suspend all REDD initiatives and carbon market schemes in Indigenous territories until Indigenous Peoples' rights are fully recognized, protected and promoted;
- To establish an Expert Group on Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples with the full participation and representation of Indigenous Peoples
- To include indigenous peoples' experts in the implementation of phase II of Nairobi Programme of Work as well as post-Kyoto planning processes;
- To ensure and promote our full and effective participation in all policy-making and decision-taking levels of the Convention, including in SBSTA. We request the recognition of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change as advisory body to all bodies of the UNFCCC
- To request that independent, sufficient and unconditional funds and resources be made available and/or accessible to us to participate at relevant negotiations and to compensate us for loss and damage associated with climate change mitigation projects and policies; and emergency and long-term relief for climate change impacts in indigenous peoples territories;

Thank you.