

Statements submitted to the 14th Session of the Conference of Parties of
the
United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change - 2008

**Statement of the International Indigenous
Peoples Forum on Climate Change
to the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long-Term
Cooperative Action
Wednesday, December 10, 2008**

(Editor: This is the statement prepared by the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change meeting in Poznan, Poland during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties meeting #14. The delegates in the IIPFCC came from indigenous nations and organizations from Asia, South America, Africa, North America, Europe and Melanesia.)

Thank you Mr./Ms. Chairperson,

It is appropriate that we address you today in the name of Indigenous Peoples, on the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, a year after the adoption by the General Assembly of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We have been frustrated that efforts by ourselves and some parties to include recognition of our fundamental rights have been resisted.

We know that Indigenous Peoples' are the most affected by the impacts of climate change. We stand to lose our lands, our resources, our cultures, our identity. We conceive of our

human rights being violated not only by the effects of climate change, but also by the so-called solutions, and the way negotiations are carried out.

We can reference many articles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We remind you that the Declaration affirms Indigenous rights to lands, resources and territories, to self-determination, to means of subsistence, to the right to development, among others. We urge the Convention to use the Declaration as a minimum standard in its future programme of work.

On the theme of long-term cooperative action, we have not been adequately included in the discussions about moving forward with the Convention. We envision adaptation and mitigation measures taken with our full and effective participation that reflect our concerns and protect our rights.

In particular, we note that efforts surrounding Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation programs and then Clean Development Mechanism are at great threat of violating our rights further, and that some projects already have. We reject these mechanisms being implemented without our free, prior, and informed consent. We will continue to oppose these mechanisms until Indigenous Peoples rights are fully recognized, protected and promoted.

We are particularly concerned that REDD programs in particular will not recognize our contributions to preserve forests, and may lead to grave impacts, including forced displacement, appropriation of our lands and resources, loss of self-determination, and other human rights abuses.

Indigenous Peoples are rights holders in this discussion, and are the primary ones responsible for protecting forests, but have not been adequately consulted and their rights are not adequately protected under current negotiations.

We are calling for the establishment of an Expert Group on Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change, which will include our representatives, to represent our views and concerns, and advise the Convention.

We call on parties to safeguard our rights and our survival by establishing the strongest emissions reduction targets – at minimum of eighty percent by 2050 – while making funds available for adaptation efforts in Indigenous communities.

We call for the next phase of negotiations to fully respect Indigenous Peoples and have our full participation by , if it is to seriously address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Thank you.

(Editor: Also issued during the Poznan, Poland conference was this statement to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice for Parties (SBSTA).)

Statement of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change

SBSTA

December 10, 2008

Chair,

We acknowledge the efforts of some Parties who have supported and worked with us to reflect our rights and our full and effective participation in this COP14. However, we denounce those Parties, including Canada, the United States, New Zealand and Australia who continue to exercise, outmoded, and outdated colonial power structures that the rest of the world left behind decades ago.

We remind the parties that (Editor: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) UNFCCC is not a consensus document and perhaps a time has come for a simple majority vote that lets these four nations know how isolated their position is.

On the 60th Anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights it is appalling that any United Nations body is still denies extending the Rights enshrined in this document to the Indigenous Peoples of the planet. It is a abrogation of both the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Reference to the draft text ON SBSTA 29 agenda item 5, on REDD [Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing countries: approaches to stimulate action]. In the annex of this document, 1 (c) we are profoundly disappointed that the Indigenous Peoples fundamental rights, including the UNDRIP and other existing Human Rights instruments (Convention ILO169) are not included in the operative paragraphs of the latest document of SBSTA29.

We are just not one single indigenous people, as the document states. We are a multitude of indigenous Peoples from multiple countries, with multiple languages, diverse cultures and background and experiences. To reduce all this, to the concept of a singular unitary experience is a denial of the richness of diversity that exist within, the framework of indigenous peoples as a collective of nations.

For this reason, we, appeal to the UNFCCC and Parties to ensure rights of Indigenous Peoples as it is recognized in UNDRIP and other relevant Human Rights instruments (EG. Convention ILO 169). Any decision or measure that will be adopted at this COP, in particular the REDD process, should consider the principle of free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples and our rights to say No. In that regard, Indigenous Peoples must not be excluded from, and should be centrally involved in and benefit from, all climate change and forest programs and policies at all levels to ensure that they deliver justice and equity and contribute to sustainable development, biodiversity protection, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

We, demand an immediate suspension of all REDD initiatives and carbon market schemes in Indigenous Peoples territories until indigenous peoples rights are fully recognized, protected and promoted.

Thank you.