

**International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC)**  
**Statement on SBSTA-REDD+**

28 November 2012

On behalf of IIPFCC, indigenous peoples caucus would like to express the following issues and concerns regarding REDD+.

- In all REDD+ policies, strategies and actions, the collective rights of indigenous peoples to forests, land, territories and resources should be respected in line with our customary systems of forest governance and management systems, cosmo visions and international standards and instruments such as UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169.
- How indigenous peoples' rights are being respected and protected in REDD+ and how national laws and policies on REDD+ are aligned with minimum international human rights standards and instruments should be reported in the safeguard information systems.
- Full and effective participation of indigenous peoples must be ensured in all REDD+ phases, governance systems, institutional arrangements and implementation as provided in the Cancun Agreement and should be subject to our Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).
- Traditional knowledge, customary laws, forest management systems and practices of indigenous peoples, particularly roles and contributions of indigenous women, should be recognized and respected. Monitoring and reporting on how customary laws, traditional knowledge systems and multiple functions of forests and non-carbon values, such as traditional livelihoods, biodiversity and other environmental services provided by forests should be included into the safeguard information and national forest monitoring systems.
- Financial and technical assistance should be provided to indigenous peoples to undertake their own community participatory monitoring systems and to develop their community information systems, which will be fed into the national safeguard information systems.
- Independent recourse or complaint mechanisms must be available for indigenous peoples at all levels to deal with grievances and conflict resolution. Establishing

this mechanism should be done jointly with Indigenous Peoples and progress in this should be reported.

- Indigenous peoples affirm good governance; transparency and accountability in all mechanisms in compliance with agreed safeguards in order not to undermine our collective rights to our land, territories; and equitable benefit sharing and multiple benefits in REDD+.
- Indigenous peoples' traditional forest conservation and management practices including shifting cultivation, pastoralism, hunting and gathering, among others have contributed both to adaptation and mitigation of climate change. These should be recognized and respected and not be identified as drivers of deforestation.
- Drivers of deforestation such as monoculture industrialized agriculture plantation, logging, mining are threats to our survival. Unsustainable demands and consumption of natural resources cause deforestation and should be addressed at both the national and international levels.
- Indigenous peoples should have direct access to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other financial mechanisms, particularly public funds, to support capacity building and enhancement of sustainable livelihoods of indigenous peoples for the proper implementation of REDD+. Without implementation of safeguards, equitable benefit sharing and effective participation of indigenous peoples, REDD+ will not succeed.