



Tebtebba

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NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN

PRESS STATEMENT OF TEBTEBBA (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education): ASSESSMENT OF WHAT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE GAINED SO FAR IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IN BONN 2

11 June 2009, Bonn, Germany

Representatives of indigenous peoples from Asia and various parts of the world have been actively engaged with the UNFCCC processes, including the negotiations taking place here in Bonn now. We would like to present our preliminary assessment of what has been achieved so far.

We note the change in the terms used from “indigenous people” to “indigenous peoples” with an “s”, in SBSTA Document (FCCC/SBSTA/2009/L.9) on Agenda Item 5; “Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action.” This is an improvement from the results from Poznan.

We are also pleased to see that the Annex which is the “Draft text for a decision on methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries” contains references to indigenous peoples and local communities in the preambular and operational parts of the text. The preambular section states **“Recognizing the need for full and effective engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in, and the potential contribution of their knowledge to, monitoring and reporting activities relating to decision 1/CP. 13, paragraph 1 (b) (iii).”** The operational section paragraph 3 says **“Encourages, as appropriate, the development of guidance for effective engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in monitoring and reporting.”**

We still think, however, that these paragraphs could be further strengthened by including an additional phrase which says refers to the links between indigenous traditional knowledge, monitoring and reporting to the respect and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples. While other parties say that this will be dealt with by the AWG-LCA as it is a policy question, we think that methodological issues on REDD, as these affect indigenous peoples, cannot be delinked from the issue of rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, territories and resources and their free, prior and informed consent.

The prevailing situation in Peru, where indigenous peoples are protesting because their consent has never been obtained before the US-Peru Free Trade Agreement was finalized and now corporations are going into their territories without their consent, demonstrates clearly why it is so important that the rights issue should be linked. If indigenous peoples are not fully involved and their rights are violated in the REDD processes which will take place in their territories, it is highly possible that more situations like what we see in Peru can take place in many parts of the world.

Methodologies and processes for designing, monitoring and reporting on REDD will be largely influenced by the existing national policies on forests, which in most cases do not recognize that indigenous peoples have the right to control, own and manage their forests. If these rights are not even recognized then indigenous peoples will be kept out of these processes which can have serious implications.

In relation to AWG-LCA, the notes in the first reading of the Negotiating Text, still maintained paragraph 109 which says **“Indigenous peoples and local communities (should) (shall) be involved**

in implementation actions and their rights respected, consistent with the provisions established under the respective national legislations or in the absence of them, in accordance with the UN Declaration on IPs rights.” There are still discussions going on whether REDD should be part of NAMAs (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions) or will be a stand-alone section.

We appeal to the Parties to let the reference to rights and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the text. Most countries in the world today, including those 144 countries who voted in favor of the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, do not have existing national legislation on indigenous peoples' rights. Thus, it is crucial that the UNDRIP remains recognized as the minimum international standard for the survival, protection and well-being of indigenous peoples and remain as a framework for the UNFCCC.

In relation to adaptation, we hope the references to indigenous peoples can be further strengthened and will be maintained in the final texts which will be adopted in Copenhagen. As far as the AWG-KP is concerned, we are worried about the fact that Japan and other Developed countries are not committing clear targets which should be higher than what they have in the First Commitment Period. The proposal to kill the Kyoto Protocol is unacceptable as this is the legally-binding agreement which lays down their obligations and commitments which they hardly met. Likewise, we are against the proposal to merge AWG-LCA and AWG-KP and come up with a super protocol. We regret the attempts of developed country parties to undermine the Bali Action Plan, the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol which are the legal basis for everything being negotiated.

Finally, we are in full support of the statements and proposals on historical emissions and adaptation debt of the developed countries to the developing countries which has been proposed by Bolivia and supported by many Parties from the developing countries. We strongly believe that the burden of cutting back deeply on emissions should be borne by the developed countries and they should provide the needed financial and technological support to the developing countries to be able to mitigate and adapt to climate change. We further add that this financial and technological support should not just go to States but also directly to indigenous peoples who are doing their own mitigation and adaptation measures, without much support from the international community.

Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples'International Centre for Policy Research and Education) and the Asia Indigenous Peoples'Network on Climate Change.
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