

WORKSHOP GROUP C – CLIMATE CHANGE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

- 1. How can UNDRIP be integrated into the various climate change policies and programmes at the local, national and regional levels?**
- 2. What support should be provided to indigenous peoples to make them more effective in linking climate change with the implementation of UNDRIP?**

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Background discussion

- there are opportunities and there are risks
- there are direct risks to many of our rights under the Declaration
- we should not compromise on our core rights but perhaps there are ways to enter in some places to make gains
- one issue that is important to us in this is REDD, and the question of whether to refuse or to participate
- we have also discussed mitigation, adaptation, technology, finance, FPIC etc. etc. there are many issues that we need to cover, impacts on our communities from climate change and also from responses to climate change

1. Integrating UNDRIP into the various climate change policies and programmes

Starting from local to global

1.1. Local

- the UN Declaration this is the best tool that indigenous peoples have to engage with climate change
- many of the articles of the Declaration will support engagement with climate change policies and programmes
- on a local level, the Declaration covers many things that are of great importance to indigenous peoples
- positive experiences within Bali show that autonomy over local affairs is possible
- Article 3 the right of self-determination and Article 18 control over local affairs, to achieve these rights indigenous peoples need to strengthen and maintain indigenous systems of governance, justice and decision-making

Local contd...

- local governments should respect, and where possible, incorporate indigenous peoples' traditional institutions
- strengthening indigenous peoples' institutions, even where governments do not support or even proactively try to weaken
- the Declaration also needs to be understood and used at all levels, there is a need for indigenous peoples to translate, disseminate, explain the Declaration at all times to all levels of government
- sometimes governments make serious violations of indigenous peoples' rights without intention to do negative things, they do them simply out of ignorance of what those rights are – education is a good example of this
- we need to raise the capacity of governments, local and national, to understand in a positive way the circumstances of indigenous peoples

Local contd...

- the Declaration attempts to reestablish (where lost) the recognition of traditional institutions
- local implementation of any aspect of actions to address climate change should be conducted as far as possible through traditional institutions
- communicating the coping strategies to international agencies and institutions
- adaptation strategies also need to be dealt with within the framework of traditional and customary law
- research into and communicating the benefits of indigenous peoples' customary laws and lifestyles
- there is a need for strengthening of indigenous peoples' institutions

1.2. National

- there is a need to ensure that indigenous peoples are recognized at the national level or voices will never be recognized or heard
- Article 18 "cite"
- there is a need for indigenous peoples in each country to push strongly for engagement on these issues with their own national governments and also support the same struggles of indigenous peoples in their region
- indigenous peoples need to engage all the regional institutions or groupings that have influence
- there is often ignorance within national institutions and capacity building is required throughout the levels of decision making so that these institutions, agencies and others understand the Declaration

1.3. Regional level

- there is often ignorance within international institutions and capacity building is required throughout the levels of decision making so that these institutions, agencies and others understand the Declaration

1.4. International level

- there is often ignorance within international institutions and capacity building is required throughout the levels of decision making so that these institutions, agencies and others understand the Declaration
- Articles 38, 41, 42 are particularly relevant for linking the UN Declaration to work on the international level with agencies, programmes and policies within the UN system
- the UN has the responsibility to provide means for indigenous peoples' effective participation in all decision making processes that impact on them
- collective work by indigenous peoples at the international level is very important
- UNFCCC should have indigenous peoples' collectivities formally recognized as advisory to the Convention

International level contd...

- indigenous peoples need to lobby governments to forward the ideas recommended by indigenous peoples
- this summit should come up with concrete proposals for formal recognition within the UNFCCC processes
- there should a collective group of some form, perhaps a coordinating body over regional caucuses
- indigenous peoples should be involved in all relevant national processes, including NAPA
- UN agencies also need to be lobbied to ensure that their own staff are aware and informed about indigenous peoples' rights

2. Support needed

- voluntary fund for indigenous peoples' participation in UNFCCC processes
- there should be indigenous peoples' specific indicators, monitoring, budgeting and auditing of all actions to deal with climate change
- provide information to indigenous peoples about what is REDD, what is CDM
- information sharing dissemination, booklets, posters

Support needed contd...

- support for communities to be able to have direct connections with the international and national policy-makers.
- support indigenous peoples to get their voices heard and get opportunities to participate
- indigenous peoples need to be present in Bonn and Bangkok as well as in Copenhagen
- Efforts to mobilize resources to ensure participation (Multilateral, Bilateral, INGOs)

Support needed contd.

- capacity-building
- series of workshops about these issues
- local language translation of UNDRIP
- local monitoring systems in place
- provide capacity for benefit-sharing about payments for ecosystem services

HORCHE !

Thank You !