

Responsible Officer
Interim Secretariat
Green Climate Fund

21 March 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

In response to the specific request by the Green Climate Fund secretariat, the undersigned Indigenous Peoples and support organizations submit our comments and recommendations on the modalities for selection, activities and role of observers and active observers in the Board of the Green Climate Fund.

Specific operational details are provided in the response to the questionnaire (attached). The key recommendations are:

a. Indigenous peoples active observer (s)

First and of greatest importance, indigenous peoples must be granted active observer status, in line with international human rights obligations and standards. Our necessary contribution to climate change response actions (mitigation, adaptation, REDD+) as acknowledged - inter alia - by the UNFCCC recognizing indigenous peoples as vulnerable communities.

Nevertheless, we notice that the Secretariat is considering two categories of observers: active observer status is granted only to two civil society representatives and two private sector representatives. Indigenous peoples can not be represented by either of these categories. We can only represent ourselves.

In accordance with evolving international practice, indigenous peoples' participation is in fact independent of civil society representation. This is equally the case in the environmental

arena where environmental NGOs do not represent indigenous peoples.

Given the planned role of the Green Climate Fund intended to deliver resources supporting climate-related projects, we believe it is crucial that the GCF structure adopt the standard setting examples of UN-REDD, World Bank's Climate Investment Fund, World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility¹ in ensuring a mechanism for the effective participation of indigenous peoples.

The decision to allow for two active observers for private sector and two observers for civil society was taken in the Transitional Committee and included in the report to the COP in Durban. During the COP session in Durban there was no chance to re-open discussion on the report, and hence indigenous peoples had very limited opportunities to call for active observer status and address this discriminatory decision. If such decision cannot be taken in the first Board meeting, then the Board should adopt a workplan and timeframe to discuss and approve the establishment of at least one indigenous peoples' active observer.

The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues should also participate in the Board meetings as an observer.

b. An indigenous peoples fund

A dedicated fund should be established with voluntary contributions and trust funds to enable indigenous peoples to fully and effectively participate in the activities of the Green Climate Fund Board, whose meetings should be opened to attendance to all observers.

¹ See for example the Climate Investment Fund document "Guidelines for inviting representatives of civil society to observe meetings of the CIF Trust Fund Committee", April 2009

c. Indigenous peoples' advisory body and contact person in the Secretariat

An Indigenous Peoples' Advisory body and a contact person should also be established.

Experience with Global Health bodies such as the Global Fund against Malaria AIDS and TBC or the GAVI, shows that active engagement of stakeholders in the decision-making processes plays a significant role in ensuring ownership and success of activities. The inclusion of indigenous peoples as active observers to the Green Climate Fund will not only contribute to the fulfillment of international obligations but ensure that the peoples most vulnerable to the impact of global climate change will be able to contribute to decisions on projects that will impact them.

As this matter of indigenous peoples' participation is of paramount concern to indigenous peoples, we are currently circulating this letter and the questionnaire response. We propose that additional endorsements will be resent to the interim secretariat by 5 April 2012.

Best regards,

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