

PRESS RELEASE:

Nothing About Us, Without Us

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Who: Indigenous Peoples Constituency

What: Direct Action to protest exclusion of Indigenous voices in Climate Negotiations

When: Tuesday November 11th, 10 AM

Where: Bula Zone 1, UNFCCC COP23 Conference, Bonn, Germany

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES LEFT OUT IN THE COLD AT UN CLIMATE CONFERENCE

Last night, the lack of political will to operationalise the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform within the UN Climate talks saw negotiations come to a halt as countries failed to produce a decision text.

Over the last three years, Indigenous Peoples have fought relentlessly for their communities to be directly and meaningfully represented in both the creation and operationalisation of a platform for indigenous peoples within these climate negotiations.

Despite global action, and pressure from indigenous attendees to COP, parties continue to delay the process by attempting to renegotiate our rights. These rights, as acknowledged in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, are NOT up for debate.

In 2015, Indigenous Peoples achieved a historical win by creating a platform in the Paris Agreement to share their knowledge and accelerate climate action. Coming into COP23, we looked forward to working with parties to set a clear pathway to operationalisation.

Over the last week, promising progress was made but ultimately the negotiations were driven by political agendas that squeezed out Indigenous Peoples' voices. Indigenous Peoples have been resilient throughout the worsening impacts of climate change and it is this platform that will strengthen their ability to respond and collaborate in order to protect their livelihoods, cultures, and land.

To delay these crucial decisions, and to fail to recognise the autonomy and self determination of Indigenous Peoples is not only a breach of the Declaration but are a fundamental loss to the overall validity and efficacy of the UNFCCC process.

So today, indigenous peoples join together in the key negotiating zone, to reclaim a space for indigenous peoples and protest their continued marginalisation.