

Presidency's Open Dialogue COP23 IIPFCC Statement

Topic 2-Enhancing admitted observer access to and participation in formal meetings

As Indigenous peoples, our engagement is guided by the provisions of the UNDRIP that recognizes our contribution as distinct rights holders and knowledge owners.

We propose a facilitated Non-Party Stakeholders process to consolidate positions on sessions to reduce the time taken and improve the consideration of the input by Non-Party Stakeholders during sessions and request COP Presidencies to consider cofacilitation by NPS actors in sessions where their expertise is noted and aligned with their roles with the recognition that Traditional Knowledge that informs the contribution of Indigenous peoples requires unique means for utilization.

In regards to access to agenda sessions, agenda items tickets should be distributed equally between the NPSs away from the current volume based distribution as all NPSs do not have similar financial and rallying capacities. This is requested in the understanding that access provides influence and access to knowledge and opportunities to make interventions that could be used to further conflicts of interests. In this case, we propose these interventions to be considered not always at the end.

We request to the UNFCCC secretariat to consider supporting regional organization of Non-Party Stakeholders to provide feedback to parties within their regions on specific sessions and to continuing the tradition of this Open Dialogue in future COPs to entrench the spirit of the dialogue.

Some of the best practices from the Indigenous peoples constituency include a consideration on co-facilitation of sessions in line with Non-Party Stakeholders expertise and roles as done in several UN processes like the Expert Mechanism on human rights and the WG on Article 8j of the CBD.

In closing, Parties must ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in all processes of the UNFCCC including providing interventions in sessions and of particular interest to us is the ongoing process for the operationalization of the Indigenous Peoples Platform that should greatly enhance the contribution of Indigenous peoples in the work of the UNFCCC. The engagement of IPs should always be premised and guided by indicators that ensure recognition of our collective rights to lands, territories and natural resources, self-determination, knowledge of indigenous peoples, exercise of customary law and institutions, and non-discrimination.