

Statement by the Inter-American Development Bank

Session 3 (b) on the Environment and Report of the International Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Peoples and Forests

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Ahneen – hello, buenos dias, bonjour

I am honored and privileged to join you here for the historic 10th session of the UNPFII.

My name is Kristyna Bishop and I am a Senior Social Development Specialist and indigenous focal point with the IDB in Washington, DC.

The IDB was **established in 1959** and is the largest source of development financing for Latin America and the Caribbean. The IDB has a strong commitment to **increased integrity, transparency and accountability**. We have an evolving [reform](#) agenda that seeks to increase our [development impact](#) in the region.

Climate change, environment and food security are among the key priorities for the IDB's development agenda over the next decade. With the Bank's support, Latin American and Caribbean countries are preparing for the growing challenges that climate change will pose to governments, society and economic activity as a whole. The IDB is **financing the design of strategies for adapting to different climate change scenarios** as well as the application of new technologies to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs). These strategies include [adaptation](#), [mitigation](#), [access to carbon markets](#) and [strengthening public and private partnerships](#).

The IDB recognizes that **IP have a central role as stewards of many of the forests in Latin America** but that they have not played a strong role in the dialogue and DM processes relating to climate change adaptation and mitigation. In some cases, it appears that they have been excluded from the discussion, which is often concentrated at the national and international level. As the climate change dialogue **becomes more sophisticated with new science, as well as new**

market and governance options, the already tenuous capacity of indigenous peoples to participate and contribute to the design of these activities **will decrease** unless they are able to improve access to relevant information and adequate resources.

The IDB's Operational Policy on Indigenous peoples and Strategy for Indigenous Development requires that all Bank financing should include efforts to **mainstream indigenous issues/needs in both stand alone and generally focused projects AND to safeguard the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples where Bank projects, " directly or indirectly affect the legal status, possession or management of territories**, lands or natural resources traditionally occupied or used by indigenous peoples."

In this context, the IDB is pleased to announce that **we are supporting the participation of indigenous peoples and training in climate change dialogues as part of a recently approved project that will be executed by our partner COICA with the support of EDF and WHRC**. This project, Indigenous peoples and Climate Change in the Amazon, will finance training and technical assistance for indigenous communities in adaptation, mitigation and the voluntary carbon markets in five countries in the Amazon. Participation in international dialogues will also be financed as will a strong monitoring and evaluation system that will attempt to gauge how indigenous participation has impacted these international dialogues. We congratulate COICA for taking this step and we will support them to ensure that this project is **well executed with the greatest benefit for all in the Amazon basin**.

In addition, the IDB is increasing our involvement in the **Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and the Forest Investment Partnership (FIP)**. These two framework initiatives provide a further opportunity to support IP involvement in carbon market development and regulation and many related aspects of forest governance. The IDB is uniquely situated to facilitate the necessary collaboration between indigenous peoples, governments, civil society and private sector that are critical for the implementation and functioning of these important initiatives.

Thank you very much for your time and on behalf of the IDB and more specifically the Gender and Diversity (GDI) and Social and

Environmental Safeguards Units (ESG), good luck with your work during this session.

Meegwetch, gracias, merci and thank you