

## **IIPFCC Final Talanoa Dialogue opening statement**

Read by Alberto Saldamando, Indigenous Environmental Network, US/Canada

### **Expectations for the dialogue**

It is well understood that Indigenous Peoples are most directly and severely affected by climate change. Catastrophic weather events affect us worldwide - the Amazon forest, the Himalayan Mountains, the Arctic, North America, the Pacific and Caribbean, Latin America, Africa and Asia.

Rising oceans cause a loss of our habitat, territory and food sovereignty and security. Our Indigenous peoples in all regions experience severe storms, droughts and flooding. These events detrimentally affect not only our food sovereignty and security but our very existence, our cultures and identity as indigenous peoples.

Defenders of our food security, our ecosystems, territories and cultures, and Sacred Water are criminalized, facing intimidation, imprisonment and assassination. Negotiations have yet to fairly address human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Talanoa Dialogue must result in substantially increased pre-2020 ambitions in the mitigation of Greenhouse Gases. The Dialogue must also provide political momentum for substantially increased ambition for NDCs to be communicated by parties in 2020.

Sinks will not accomplish the Paris promise of 1.5°. The Oceans are growing heavily acidic - their absorption of GHGs is killing precious coral reefs that are the foundation of sea life. The warming ocean itself creates conditions for greater frequency and scale of hurricanes and typhoons. Our forests are seen as ripe for carbon markets, drawing unwelcome attention from financial institutions and carbon marketeers, and leading in many cases to violations of the rights of indigenous peoples. These schemes draw attention away from the real causes of deforestation, such as industrialized agriculture, logging - both legal and illegal, and livestock production.

We hope that the Talanoa Dialogue could achieve conditions for the necessary reductions of emissions and address these concerns.

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman