

Thank you,

My name is Ghazali Ohorella, representative of the Pacific Indigenous region and taking the floor on behalf of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIFPCC). On the offset, we thank the Co-Facilitator and states to allow Indigenous Peoples the chance to speak in this session.

We also thank the UNFCCC for the comprehensive report of the multi-stakeholder dialogue, and convey our appreciation in appointing an Indigenous Co-Moderator along the SBSTA chair to guide this process.

Which to us, is a clear demonstration of “innovative” ways of increasing the full, effective, direct and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples in UNFCCC climate action and policies.

This is an effective starting point for the operationalization roadmap.

We take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of Parties to respect their obligations on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, not only when taking action to address climate change, but also in the interactions and advancement of Indigenous Peoples’ right to full, effective, direct, and meaningful participation.

Over the next days, we will continue to bring our unique and essential perspectives to assist in all actions on climate change, including mitigation, adaptation, agriculture, loss and damage, and capacity building. We want to make it clear that we are here to participate proactively and positively, and acting in good faith.

Therefore, for the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform we call for the following:

1. To organise and fully fund and Open-Ended Working Group to determine the modalities for the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, convened by 4 co-facilitators during the coming May inter-sessions;
2. The 4 co-facilitators should be; 2 nominated by Parties and 2 nominated by Indigenous Peoples through their own processes;
3. We request the co-facilitators to present the outcomes of the consultations for the consideration and adoption at COP24 as part of a roadmap;
4. We request the secretariat, under the guidance of the co-facilitators, to operationalise the platform taking into account the outcomes of the Open-Ended Working Group.

We do not underestimate the work ahead and are committed to working with Parties. These parameters will ensure that the Indigenous Peoples Platform will achieve a fair and equitable process for all Parties and any outcomes are meaningful and have longevity beyond COP23.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our priorities, and we look forward to further elaboration and collaboration during the coming days.