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STATEMENT BY THE WORLD BANK
16TH SESSION OF THE UN PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Madam Chair, Honorable Permanent Forum members, Indigenous Peoples' representatives, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of the World Bank, I would like to congratulate Ms. Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine on her election as the chair of the 16th session of the Forum. My colleagues and I are honored to participate again in this year's Permanent Forum and welcome the work of the new members.

Ten years ago, the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples marked a breaking point in history. We celebrate this historic achievement to guide current and future action on the Bank's engagement and support of development priorities and aspirations of Indigenous Peoples. During the last ten years, the UNDRIP has fostered constructive dialogues, informed public policies and the adoption of national laws acknowledging, protecting and promoting Indigenous Peoples' rights. All of this has allowed a better understanding of Indigenous Peoples' own vision of development. I am pleased to say that the World Bank has been part of this learning process. The World Bank has progressively engaged with Indigenous Peoples at national, regional and global levels, seeking new approaches and actions to support their development in accordance with their own needs, values, priorities and aspirations.

Our learning process gained momentum in 2012, when the World Bank embarked in its most comprehensive consultation process to update and consolidate its environmental and social safeguards policies. Indigenous Peoples have been an integral part of this process that concluded in August 2016 with the approval of the new Environmental and Social Framework by the Bank's Board of Directors.

Our new Environmental and Social Framework is a more comprehensive set of standards that ensures the respect of Indigenous Peoples' dignity, human rights, economies, and cultures, and guarantees that they receive social and economic benefits that are culturally appropriate as well as gender and intergenerationally inclusive. The new Framework includes an Environmental and Social Standard (ESS 7) for Indigenous Peoples/sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities. The ESS7 realigns itself with the UNDRIP to recognize the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples in World Bank funded projects. Moreover, the new Framework encompasses all groups of Indigenous Peoples, including hunters, gatherers, pastoralists and those in voluntary isolation.



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Plans and frameworks crafted together with the Indigenous Peoples will continue to be a critical part of all projects that can affect them. Unquestionably, Indigenous Peoples will also be crucial partners in the roll-out phase of the Framework, planned for 2018, and we will certainly rely on your support for its implementation.

The ESF consultation process was supported by regional dialogue processes that have evolved into permanent strategic engagement platforms for the Bank with Indigenous peoples. In Latin America, for example, the dialogue with the regional Indigenous Peoples network Foro Indígena Abya Yala, has among its many initiatives, a project to articulate guidance on how to effectively operationalize Indigenous Peoples rights in programs and projects in the health, education, natural resource management, and rural development. These guidance notes draw from good practice from throughout the region, and are elaborated in collective roundtables by Bank sectoral specialists, Indigenous leaders, government representatives, and human rights experts

In April 2015, the World Bank held High Level meetings in Washington, D.C. with 30 Indigenous Peoples' leaders. We are glad to say that much progress has been made. Since October 2016, the World Bank and Indigenous leaders from different parts of the world have jointly discussed the possibility of creating an Indigenous Peoples Technical Advisory Group at the Bank. A gender and geographically-balanced Task Force was created to develop a draft working document in which the objectives, composition, decision making process and commitments are determined. Further consultations have taken place this week.

Madam Chair, the World Bank has also advanced in strengthening Indigenous Peoples' capacity and enhancing their participation in key climate change processes through initiatives supported by trust funds. For example, those funded by the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) and the Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM).

Since 2008, a key component of the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)'s work has been to ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in REDD+ initiatives. During its first phase, the FCPF's Capacity Building Program financed 27 projects in Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America totaling US\$ 1.9 million. Phase II started in 2016 with a total budget of more than 3 million dollars. An additional 5 million dollars was added to this program just a month ago. This capacity building program has already yielded excellent results. For example, activities funded through FCPF contributed to the collaborative mapping of 2,344 indigenous territories and 610 protected areas, comprising 52% of the Amazonian surface area that covers 9 countries.



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Moreover, ten Indigenous Peoples' Observers are representatives on the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) Trust Fund Committees and three sub-committees. We also created the Stakeholder Advisory Network (SAN) in the CIF, which was formally launched at the 22nd UNFCCC Conference of Parties in Marrakech this past November. The SAN aims to strengthen the participation and partnership of non-state actors, including Indigenous Peoples, with various funding entities in the climate finance architecture.

The CIF also recognizes the importance of including traditional knowledge and technology, rooted in Indigenous Peoples' values and experience, as an important source of innovation for climate science and practice. To support this agenda, the CIF has created an initiative to promote recognition of traditional knowledge and technology to climate solutions within the World Bank and beyond. The CIF established the largest grant for Indigenous Peoples, the "Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM)", in 2010 to promote and facilitate the engagement of Indigenous Peoples in climate change decision-making at the local and global levels as well as implementation of key climate related investments. Going forward, we call upon Indigenous peoples to support CIF efforts and initiatives for expanding Indigenous Peoples engagement in climate finance and investments.

The Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (DGM) part of the Forest Investment Program (FIP), has supported concrete actions on climate change. With US\$80 million in grant resources for 14 countries, such as DRC, Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia, Burkina Faso and Peru, DGM projects are building capacities at the national level for strengthening Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' voices on land and forest policies and strengthening their capacities to participate in forest and land management activities.

We continue to ensure that Indigenous Peoples' needs, challenges, aspirations and worldviews are adequately reflected in all World Bank funded projects and country partnership strategies.

Madam Chair, today is, undoubtedly, a day to celebrate as much progress has been achieved. However, it is also a day to reflect on shortcomings and obstacles still present in our path. We need to redouble our efforts and work closer than ever to support the development aspirations of Indigenous Peoples in every corner of the world. We invite you all to join us to reflect, discuss and visualize the future of the World Bank and Indigenous Peoples working together towards sustainable development. We have had a full engagement agenda this week here in New York, especially on Wednesday April 26th, with active participation of Indigenous Peoples from all regions of the world.



I will now offer my colleague, Sarah Wyatt of the Global Environment Facility, a trust fund administered by the World Bank, an opportunity to make a brief statement.

Thank you very much!