



STATEMENT BY THE WORLD BANK
17TH SESSION OF THE UN PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES
APRIL 2018
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Madam Chair, Honorable Permanent Forum members, Indigenous Peoples' representatives, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

My colleagues and I are honored to participate once again in the discussions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and welcome the work of its Honorable Members.

This year's theme "indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources" is in line with the World Bank's objectives and its operational and analytical work. Land governance is at the forefront of many of World Bank's strategic engagements and country-specific operational work. For the last 19 years, the Bank has hosted the "Land and Poverty Conference", one of the largest international events on land governance, presenting the latest research and practice on the diversity of reforms, interventions, and innovations in the land sector around the world. In many countries, the World Bank has supported the legal recognition, demarcation, titling and registration of Indigenous Peoples' lands, and has encouraged integrated approaches for sustainable development of Indigenous Peoples' lands and territories after legalization.

The Environmental and Social Framework approved by the Bank's Board of Directors in August 2016, is the result of extensive consultations where Indigenous Peoples had a key role. The Framework aims to ensure the respect of Indigenous Peoples' dignity, human rights, economies and cultures as well as their effective participation in the development process. It also seeks to guarantee that Indigenous Peoples receive culturally appropriate benefits in a gender and inter-generationally inclusive manner.

The Environmental and Social Standard 7 (ESS 7) in particular, focuses on "Indigenous Peoples/sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities". The standard is designed to encompass all groups of Indigenous Peoples, including hunters, gatherers, pastoralists and those in voluntary isolation. I am pleased to note that the standard now explicitly includes the need for Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples for defined types of impacts in World Bank funded projects. I am also pleased to



announce that we are undergoing an intensive preparation and training period for the transition to this new framework which is expected to be applied in all World Bank projects approved towards the end of the year.

The World Bank continues to engage 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. The process of strengthening the engagement with Indigenous Peoples through dialogue and capacity building has already shown concrete results. In Latin America, the dialogue with the Foro Indígena de Abya Yala (FIAY), has increased the institutional strength of the organization, contributed to World Bank safeguard policies, and created space for the jointly conception and development of Good Practice Notes for the Application of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Education, Health, Productive Development and Natural Resources in Latin America, with the support of the Nordic Trust Fund. In Africa, the Bank is working with REPALEAC, a sub-regional network of Indigenous Peoples to develop a Strategic Framework in the areas of land governance, natural resources' management, sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience.

To better mainstream and address Indigenous Peoples' issues in World Bank activities, our structure for engagement with them will be expanded to include a network of regional focal points with expertise in working on Indigenous Peoples' issues. Three Global Coordinators will provide additional points of contact for IPs. Furthermore, to provide an open platform for discussing and debating issues of importance to Indigenous Peoples, we propose to facilitate the establishment of an Inclusive Forum for Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Development, to be coordinated by Indigenous representatives on a rotating basis, which will meet at least annually. All stakeholders involved in contributing to the development of Indigenous Peoples would be welcome to be a part of this inclusive platform.

Madam Chair, the World Bank has continued to engage with Indigenous Peoples in confronting the challenge of climate change through the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) and the Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM). Last year, the FCPF Participants Committee approved an additional \$5 million to the Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society Capacity Building program with a closing date of June 30, 2020, bringing the total funding to this program to \$11 million since 2008. The program is being implemented directly by Indigenous Peoples organizations.

In the context of the CIFs, ten Indigenous Peoples' Observers serve on the Trust Fund Committees and three sub-committees. The CIFs also have a Stakeholder Advisory Network



which aims to strengthen the participation and partnership of non-state actors, including Indigenous Peoples. CIF's largest grant for Indigenous Peoples, the "Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM)" supports projects in 14 countries, to strengthen Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' voices on land and forest policies, and participate in their management activities.

We continue to ensure that Indigenous Peoples' needs, challenges, aspirations and worldviews are adequately reflected in World Bank funded projects and Country Partnership Frameworks. I am pleased to inform that in March our Board of Directors approved a US\$80 million loan to support the Indigenous Peoples' Development Plan of Panama. Jointly developed by Indigenous Peoples, the government of Panama and the World Bank, this project will strengthen governance capacity and improve access to basic services and infrastructure in accordance with the Indigenous Peoples' vision and development priorities.

Madam Chair, the World Bank reiterates its commitment to strengthen its engagement with Indigenous Peoples across the globe, particularly those in vulnerable situations, in line with our twin goals to eliminate extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity. In fact, we are trying to replicate the lessons we are learning in engaging and proactively reaching to Indigenous Peoples, in our work with other populations who face unique vulnerabilities and ethnic-based discrimination. We are committed to work together to find new and innovative ways to support Indigenous Peoples' development while respecting their culture and priorities.

We invite you all to join our discussions on how national governments, development partners, including the World Bank, and the Indigenous Peoples around the world can collaborate even more closely. We have a full engagement agenda tomorrow here in New York where we will cover diverse and relevant topics, such as securing forest tenure for rural development, the implementation and implications of the new Environment and Social Framework and relevant legislative experiences in Latin America.

I will now offer my colleague, Sarah Wyatt of the Global Environment Facility an opportunity to make a brief statement.

Thank you very much!