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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WORLD BANK'S ENGAGEMENT AT THE 2016 UN PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

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### The 15th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

(UNPFII15) took place at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York City from May 9-20. It brought together more than 1,000 participants from more than 250 organizations, over 70 Member States and 35 UN agencies. This year also saw a record number of over 80 side events organized by the participants parallel to the main meetings. **The World Bank's Indigenous Peoples' Advisory function organized side events with the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and**

**Local Communities and the Latin American and Caribbean Region (LAC).**

Organized around the theme 'Indigenous Peoples: conflict, peace and resolution,' this year's session highlighted the need to address conflicts on Indigenous lands and territories, and over their natural resources. Interactive panels highlighted root causes of conflicts affecting Indigenous Peoples, including the situation of Indigenous women during violent conflict and the role Indigenous Peoples can play in post-conflict transitions. At the closing of the Forum, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted that while there have been significant achievements in realizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples, conflicts over their lands and their exclusion in peace processes remain a serious challenge. He called on "Member States, Indigenous Peoples and the entire UN system to work collaboratively to address these and other serious concerns".

The Forum heard statements by Member States, UN agencies and Indigenous Peoples representatives related to the six mandated areas of the UNPFII (social and economic development, health, education, human rights, culture and environment) vis-à-vis the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and this year's theme. In addition, the Forum discussed the implementation of the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the [Paris Climate Agreement](#) and the upcoming COP22, especially related to the vital role of Indigenous Peoples' to implement the climate agreement.

In addition, the [role of Indigenous Peoples](#) in implementing the new **2030 sustainable development agenda including the global goals (SDGs)** was discussed. The UN Secretary-General emphasized that "States must be

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held accountable for implementing the 2030 Agenda, with full respect for the rights and minimum standards guaranteed for Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.”



**Luis Felipe Duchicela**, World Bank Advisor on Indigenous Peoples delivered a statement on behalf of the Bank. The statement highlighted the Bank’s work with Indigenous Peoples at the global, regional and country levels, provided an update on the safeguards, and affirmed the Bank’s commitments to supporting Indigenous Peoples’ involvement in climate change and the sustainable development goals.

The final report of the UNPFII will be released later in June, however a draft version can be found [here](#).

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## THE WORLD BANK SIDE EVENTS

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### PRESENTATION OF WORLD BANK REPORT, “INDIGENOUS LATIN AMERICA IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY”

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This year our side events were held at the United States Permanent Mission. U.S. Minister-Counselor for Economic and Social Affairs Stefanie Amadeo kicked off our events with welcome remarks. Our first event, the presentation of a World Bank study, [\*\*INDIGENOUS LATIN AMERICA IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY\*\*](#), was presented by **Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez**, Senior Director of the World Bank’s Social Urban Rural and Resilience Global Practice (GSURR) which set the stage for a



vibrant audience discussion. The report shines new light on the situation of Indigenous Peoples across Latin America. The study finds that despite important advances, Indigenous communities in the region are disproportionately affected by poverty, and continue to face widespread economic and



social exclusion. The report also highlighted the important implications of Indigenous Peoples’ involvement to successfully implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. **Dianna Pizarro**, World Bank Senior Social Development Specialist, Latin America and Caribbean Region and **Luis Felipe Duchicela**, Advisor for Indigenous Peoples, World Bank, were also on hand to answer questions and round out the panel. **Gina Cosentino**, Consultant for the Indigenous Advisory facilitated the discussion.



## SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

In partnership with the [Climate Investment Funds \(CIF\)](#), [The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility \(FCPF\)](#) and the [Dedicated Grant Mechanism \(DGM\)](#) for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, the World Bank showcased successful initiatives and good practices from climate projects that effectively involve Indigenous Peoples in sustainable development and climate initiatives.

Opening this event with welcome remarks was Sarah Mendelson, U.S. Representative to the Economic and Social Council, followed by **Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez**, Senior Director of GSURR, UN Permanent Forum Member Indigenous Representative **Maria Eugenia Choque Quispe**. **The Honourable Catherine McKenna**, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change for Canada provided a [recorded message](#) which highlighted the important work of the Climate Investment Funds with Indigenous Peoples in achieving a globally ambitious climate and sustainable development agenda. **Gina Cosentino**, consultant for the World Bank's Indigenous Advisory function emceed the event.

Midway through the event, we heard remarks from the **United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, **Danny Gogal**. Mr. Gogal is the Senior Environmental Protection Specialist, Tribal and Indigenous Peoples Program and Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Lead for International Human Rights Agreement. He discussed the United States government's collaboration with tribes on addressing climate change impacts.

### 1) THE CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS (CIF): Working with Indigenous peoples for effective climate action

**Mafalda Duarte**, Manager for the CIF, led a panel on the CIF's and DGM's engagement and partnership with Indigenous Peoples. Additional panelists **Myrna Cunningham**, Fondo Indígena, **Grace Balawag**, Tebtebba (co-chair of the Global Steering Committee for the DGM) and **Marilene Puquio**, Peru DGM committee.



#### Key Messages:

- The DGM under the Forest Investment Program (FIP) is the largest global REDD+ initiative created solely for and by Indigenous Peoples and local communities
- Indigenous Peoples' Engagement at the Country Level
  - Information sharing: involving the broadest range of stakeholders
  - Consultation: considering stakeholders views in the design and implementation of CIF investment plans
  - Collaboration: governments and stakeholders work together on specific projects
  - Partnerships: governments and stakeholders work together on long-term initiatives





Mafalda Duarte also announced the approval by the Trust Fund Committee of a Stakeholder Advisory Network, and work that has commenced on a report that assesses how traditional knowledge and technology can contribute to climate solutions, and the need for capacity development of Indigenous Peoples to contribute to both mitigation and adaptation solutions.

[Read more](#) about CIF's work with Indigenous Peoples and their session at the UNPFII.

## 2) FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY (FCPF): The FCPF Capacity Building Program for Forest Dependent Peoples and Southern Civil Society Organizations

In what was a hallmark event at the symposium, the FCPF held a *Grant Signing Ceremony* for its Capacity Building Program Phase 2 project for Indigenous Peoples in Africa.



Ellysar Baroudy and Nicholas Soikan of FCPF and Joseph Ole Simel representing The [Mainyoto Pastoralist Integrated Development Organization](#) (MPIDO), formally finalized the Africa Regional Grant Agreement. MPIDO an Indigenous Peoples organization based in Kenya, is the African regional recipient of these funds through the FCPF Program.

This project will run through mid-2018. The FCPF Capacity-Building Program provides grants, between US\$300,000 to US\$800,000, directly to regionally active Indigenous Peoples, forest-dependent communities and civil society organizations.

They then work with forest dependent Indigenous Peoples' organizations on the ground in eligible FCPF countries in support of national-level and regional level capacity building activities.

### This program has ambitious goals:

- Increase understanding of climate change and REDD+.
- Improve participation of these groups in planning and policy decisions at the national level
- Promote learning and sharing of experiences at a regional level. This program allows for direct access to financing for the stakeholder organizations to execute activities.

Similar agreements with organizations in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean will be signed in the coming months. [Read more here.](#)



### 3) WORLD BANK CASE STUDY PRESENTATION: From Policy to Practice, Investing in the Indigenous Peoples National Development Plan in Panama

**Dianna Pizarro**, World Bank Senior Social Development Specialist for LAC and two representatives of the Ministry of the Government of Panama, **Irene Gallegos**, Vice Minister of Indigenous Affairs and **Selina Baños**, Director of International Cooperation presented the Bank's first loan to a country for a national Indigenous Peoples development plan. Jointly developed by Indigenous Peoples, Government and Bank staff, this project aims to strengthen governance capacity and improve access to basic services and infrastructure in Panama's Indigenous territories in accordance with the Indigenous Peoples' vision and development priorities. *Learn more about this project [here](#).*



As part of the consistent and permanent dialogue between the Bank and FIAY--the only regional Indigenous Peoples' network in Latin America—LRC VP, **Jorge Familiar** chaired a work-meeting with FIAY representatives and other WB staff to review progress achieved in the last 2 years and discuss 2016-2017 joint action plan. At the meeting, the Bank renewed its commitment to continue with the WB-FIAY Dialogue and to support Indigenous Peoples' initiatives in the region.

Luis Felipe  
Duchicela (L), Erika  
Piber (C) and Gina  
Cosentino (R)



For more information about our involvement at this year's UNPFII and the World Bank's work with Indigenous peoples, contact [Luis Felipe Duchicela](#), Advisor for Indigenous Peoples, and [Gina Cosentino](#), Consultant, Indigenous Advisory.

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