



Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch/
Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, Room S-2555, New York, NY, USA 10017
Tel: +1 917 367 5100, Fax: +1 917 367 5102, indigenous_un@un.org

SPEAKING POINTS

Anne Nuorgam, Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

ECOSOC Informal Briefing on the outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26)

December 14, 2021

Your Excellency,

It is a pleasure to meet with you today and share some of the contributions of indigenous peoples to climate action based on discussions, recommendations, and decisions of the Permanent Forum.

At the UNPFII, we have observed with great concern the accelerating global climate change, that has devastating impacts to the environment and humankind and that is bringing the world dangerously close to irreversible change.

The multiple impacts of climate change are already adversely affecting Indigenous Peoples' societies, triggering migration and displacement, impacting the health and well-being of youth, and threatening our food security and food systems – our ways of life – by damaging and disrupting the natural elements of our lands and marine ecosystems that are at the heart of our food and water sources.

The Permanent Forum has continuously addressed this concern during its sessions and given several recommendations pertaining climate change and Indigenous Peoples to the member states and UN system. As a chair of the Permanent Forum, I'm pleased to see that some of the recommendations have been implemented and continue to be implemented in the context of climate change negotiations, and in particular the continuation to realize important milestones for the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) and enhancement of the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the national, regional and international climate change policies and actions.

Indigenous Peoples have participated in the climate change negotiations for several years and are one of the recognized constituencies under the UNFCCC. The COP26 was attended by about 150 indigenous representatives from seven socio-cultural regions.

I will briefly highlight some of the main achievements of Indigenous Peoples at the conference. The most important issues for Indigenous Peoples were the decisions regarding the Local Communities



and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP), its activities during the conference and Article 6 of the Paris rulebook.

The COP26 decided to continue the mandate of the Facilitative Working Group of the LCIPP and approved the second three-year workplan of the LCIPP. The new action plan includes a total of nine activities related to indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge and participation in climate change policies and activities.

Furthermore, the 6th Meeting of the FWG was convened in conjunction with the COP26 as well as two activities of the initial two-year workplan of the LCIPP. The activities convened were In-session multi-stakeholder workshop and Annual thematic meeting with indigenous knowledge holders from all seven UN indigenous sociocultural regions.

Another main priority for Indigenous Peoples was the finalization of the Paris Rulebook, its Article 6 and need to ensure the inclusion of rights and safeguards in the Rulebook. Article 6 addresses market and non-market approaches and international cooperation for the mitigation of climate change. These approaches could include mega projects such as dams and plantations that could violate the rights of Indigenous Peoples. An agreement on the rules was finally reached in the last meters of the meeting and Indigenous Peoples achieved recognition of their rights in Article 6 of the Paris Rulebook.

To conclude, the Permanent Forum was delighted to hear the news about the proposed \$1.7 billion fund to support Indigenous Peoples in the protection of tropical forests through contributions from States and private funders. We hope these funds would include support for Indigenous Peoples in other types of forests as well, such as boreal forests, and other vital ecosystems and therefore be available to Indigenous Peoples from all seven socio-cultural regions.

Giitu/Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Nuorgam', is positioned above the printed name.

Anne Nuorgam
Chairperson
United Nations Permanent Forum
on Indigenous Issues