

After perusal of the report on the seventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, we identified the following two recommendations relevant to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:

**1. Paragraph 30, the first sentence: “The Permanent Forum recommends that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and relevant parties develop mechanisms for indigenous peoples’ participation, as appropriate, in all aspects of the international dialogue on climate change, particularly the forthcoming negotiations for the next Kyoto Protocol commitment period, including by establishing a working group on local adaptation measures and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples.”**

The participation of observers in the Convention process is governed by Article 7, paragraph 6 of the Convention and the established guidelines for participation. Of the 1,052 admitted observer organizations, nineteen (19) organizations declare themselves as indigenous peoples’ organizations.

Cognizant of the significance of facilitating the views of this group however small the number of admitted organizations representing it in the process is, we treat the Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOs) as one constituency of its own whose activities we assist by providing the following:

- invitations to workshops;
- free-of-charge office space with a PC on-site during the COPs;
- a free-of-charge meeting room for their daily meetings;
- meeting opportunities with the COP President and Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies;
- intervention opportunities at the plenary sessions;
- an intervention slot at the High Level Segment of the Conference of the Parties.

Note that these facilities are accorded only to those with constituency status.

In addition, indigenous peoples organizations can apply for space for exhibit stands and for side event slots facilitated by the secretariat. This may give them a unique opportunity to interact with senior audiences on the issues of climate change. This application process is facilitated by our Side Events and Exhibits Online System (SEORS) which accepts applications during the announced periods for each session.

Furthermore, participation of indigenous peoples organizations was taken up as an agenda item at the twentieth session of the Subsidiary Body of Implementation (SBI) in 2004. Concluding<sup>1</sup> that opportunities exist for fostering a full and effective participation by indigenous peoples organizations in the Convention process, the SBI provided guidance on the participation of indigenous peoples organizations by:

- encouraging the indigenous peoples organizations to make full use of the existing bodies and the opportunities currently afforded to them under the Convention;

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<sup>1</sup> FCCC/SBI/2004/10 paragraphs 105. - 109.

- inviting Parties to consider drawing on the expertise of indigenous peoples organizations when discussing matters of concern to them;
- encouraging individual Parties to give consideration to ways of enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples organizations in the Conventions process;
- inviting the chairs of relevant Convention bodies and the secretariat to facilitate the participation through discussions on relevant agenda items and workshops as well as informal contacts to the extent possible, without recourse to financial support.

As for the working group, there has been progress during the COP 14 in Poznan, Poland in December 2008. The secretariat facilitated a series of meetings for the IPO representatives with the Chair and Coordinator of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) as well as the Chairs of Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) and of Ad Hoc Working Group on further commitments under the Kyoto Protocol as well as with the COP President. In two of these meetings, the SBI Coordinator and AWG-LCA Chair made suggestions that the IPOs should formulate a concrete proposal on the working group and submit it to the Parties who would be willing to table it as an agenda item of the Conference. These suggestions reflect the mandate and the procedures of our negotiation process which stipulates that only the Parties to the Convention could table a proposal to establish a working group in the negotiation process. Following the suggestions, the IPO representatives produced a proposal and have approached several governments they feel most responsive. The secretariat will remain ready to facilitate activities of the IPOs to advance this proposal.

**2. Paragraph 36, the first sentence: “The Permanent Forum recommends that the Framework Convention on Climate Change, in cooperation with States, provide adaptation funds to indigenous peoples affected by climate change-related disasters.”**

Adaptation funds are managed by the Adaptation Fund Board, for which the Global Environmental Facilities acts as a secretariat. The UNFCCC secretariat is an observer to the Board meeting and does not have decision-making authority on the allocation of the adaptation funds. We would like to draw your attention to a relevant COP decision<sup>2</sup> on access to funding. According to this decision, eligible Parties would be able to submit their project proposal directly to the Adaptation Fund Board. In addition, implementing or executing entities chosen by governments that are able to implement the projects may also approach the Adaptation Fund Board directly. In this context, we encourage that indigenous peoples organizations contact respective governments that are eligible to submit proposals and in order to be chosen as their implementing or executing entities. For your information, the Adaptation Fund Board is in the process of determining further operational guidelines.

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<sup>2</sup> FCCC/KP/CMP/2007/9/Add.1 paragraphs 29 and 30.