

**SUBMISSION FROM THE UNFCCC LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PLATFORM  
TO THE**

**CALL FOR INPUTS FROM THE MANDATE OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR  
ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FOR HIS REPORT TO BE  
PRESENTED AT THE 51<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

***QUESTIONNAIRE***

The Special Rapporteur is particularly interested in receiving inputs on any or all of the following issues, including case studies and specific examples best practices led by indigenous peoples as well as initiatives taken by States to protect the role of indigenous women as knowledge keepers and that promote the vision and approaches of indigenous peoples.

**Best practices led by indigenous peoples, States and international organizations**

1. What are international organizations doing to support indigenous women in developing, applying, transmitting, and preserving specialized scientific, cultural and environmental knowledge or to invest in indigenous women-specific initiatives? Has indigenous women's knowledge been integrated into any governmental systems and/or policies (e.g., school curricula, healthcare systems, conservation efforts, etc.)? If possible, please share your personal experience with indigenous women's knowledge being acknowledged, respected, preserved and/or protected? (Personal information and details will not be included in the report.)

Achieving the aims of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement requires Parties to understand perspectives of people at the frontlines of climate change. The Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) facilitates collaboration between Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities to strengthen climate action. By raising the voice of indigenous peoples and local communities and enabling them to meaningfully contribute to the UNFCCC process with their knowledge and expertise, the platform promotes adaptation and mitigation ambition that leaves no one behind, as well as adaptation and mitigation actions that reduce vulnerability of people and ecosystems and builds resilience.

The LCIPP was established in 2015 by the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC on its 21<sup>st</sup> meeting “for the exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices on mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner”<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 1/CP.21 can be found at: <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a01.pdf#page=2>

The platform has been mandated by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to perform three functions: knowledge, capacity for engagement, and climate change policies and actions <sup>2</sup>. The knowledge function of the LCIPP aims to “promote the exchange of experience and best practices with a view to applying, strengthening, protecting and preserving traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, as well as technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change, taking into account the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices”<sup>3</sup>. Indigenous knowledge, including that of indigenous women, is also particularly relevant for the function on climate change policies and actions, as the COP has mandated the platform to “facilitate the integration of diverse knowledge systems, practices and innovations in designing and implementing international and national actions, programmes and policies in a manner that respects and promotes the rights and interests of local communities and indigenous peoples” <sup>4</sup>.

2. In what ways are States or international organizations acknowledging indigenous women’s contributions or impairing the ability of women to preserve, develop, apply and transmit indigenous knowledge?

The recognition of indigenous women as key knowledge holders having a fundamental role in transmission has been highlighted by several case studies and experiences shared through the activities implemented by LCIPP. This input has been facilitated by the inclusion of many indigenous women and organizations working with indigenous women among the contributors of the LCIPP.

Some of the activities under the [LCIPP initial two-year workplan \(2020-2021\)](#)<sup>5</sup> highlighted the contribution of women from indigenous peoples to the UNFCCC process. Under Activity 1, the LCIPP invited 28 knowledge holders to participate at COP 26. Half of those knowledge holders were women<sup>6</sup>. Activity 9 undertook an “[Analysis of gaps in existing policies, actions and communications under the Convention: whether and how they incorporate consideration and engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities](#)”<sup>7</sup>. That technical paper contains sections that analyze the specific needs and perspectives of indigenous women that may be considered to enhance their participation and input to the UNFCCC. Under Activity 10, a “[Summary of views by Parties, indigenous peoples, local communities, and others on the implementation of good practices for participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in national climate policy](#)”<sup>8</sup> was elaborated, that also contains examples on practices that have supported the participation of indigenous peoples women in processes related to climate action at

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<sup>2</sup> [Decision 2/CP.23](#) can be found at: <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2017/cop23/eng/11a01.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Idem.

<sup>4</sup> Idem.

<sup>5</sup> The [LCIPP initial two-year workplan \(2020-2021\)](#) can be found at <https://unfccc.int/topics/local-communities-and-indigenous-peoples-platform/the-big-picture/lcipp/initial-workplan-2020-2021-of-the-local-communities-and-indigenous-peoples-platform>

<sup>6</sup> The Summary Report of the Annual gathering at COP 26 can be found at: <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2022-03/Activity%201%20Annual%20Gathering%20Summary%20Report.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> The Technical paper “Analysis of gaps in existing policies, actions and communications under the Convention: whether and how they incorporate consideration and engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities” can be found at: <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2021-12/Technical%20Paper%20Activity%209.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> A summary of views by Parties, indigenous peoples, local communities, and others on the implementation of good practices for participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in national climate policy can be found at <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2021-08/Activity%2010%20Summary%20Submission.docx>

the national level.

Finally, the 2<sup>nd</sup> LCIPP three-year workplan (2022-2024)<sup>9</sup>, adopted at COP 27, contains several elements that aim to further include gender considerations into the work of the platform. The representation of women as possible contributors to the work plan and in the implementation of the activities is highlighted all through the workplan. In addition, Activity 4 foresees to co-organize a dialogue in accordance with the UNFCCC gender action plan. Together with women, youth and persons of different genders from local communities are also considered as possible contributors of the workplan.

3. Is indigenous women's knowledge recognized and protected by indigenous legal systems, or by local, national or international laws and policies?

The entirety of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) has been emphasized by the COP in the context of the implementation of the functions of the LCIPP involving indigenous peoples<sup>10</sup>. In order to guarantee adherence to the spirit of the UNDRIP and promote the rights of indigenous peoples over their knowledge as recognized in that international instrument, the LCIPP followed the guidance of the Facilitative Working Group, a constituted body established by the COP with the objective of further operationalizing the LCIPP and facilitating the implementation of its functions and developed a document on Rights safeguards and protocols<sup>11</sup>.

The Rights safeguards and protocols aim to in particular in creation to the knowledge sharing role of the LCIPP-dedicated web portal as stated in the UNDRIP, including the knowledge held by indigenous women.

4. What are indigenous peoples and their representative organizations, States and international organizations doing to address impediments to women's participation in political processes, planning and decision-making?

Gender considerations have occupied an important role in the implementation of the work of the LCIPP and have been mainstreamed in coherence with the UNFCCC gender action plan. Some of these considerations include the emphasis put into guaranteeing equal participation from both male and female indigenous peoples representatives in the implementation of the LCIPP work plan and in leadership roles in the LCIPP. The membership of the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) is comprised of 14 members. Half of the members are representatives of Parties to the UNFCCC, and the other half is composed of representatives of indigenous peoples (one from each of the seven United Nations indigenous sociocultural regions). Indigenous peoples representatives of the FWG are, as it was recommended by the COP, self-selected in accordance with their own procedures.

Having a gender balance in the FWG was an element stressed by the COP ()<sup>12</sup>. In line with this

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<sup>9</sup> A draft of the 2<sup>nd</sup> LCIPP three-year workplan (2022-2024) can be found in the Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Facilitative Working Group at: <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2021-09/FWG%205%20report.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> [Decision 2/CP.24](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/10a1.pdf) can be consulted at: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/10a1.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> The [Rights safeguards and protocols | Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform](https://lcipp.unfccc.int/rights-safeguards-and-protocols) are available at: <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/rights-safeguards-and-protocols>

<sup>12</sup> [Decision 2/CP.24](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/10a1.pdf) can be consulted at: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/10a1.pdf>

decision, the arrangements of the FWG co-chairing and vice co-chairing are gender-balanced. The FWG main membership of 14 is currently composed of 5 female representatives (4 indigenous peoples representatives and 1 Party representative) and 9 male representatives (3 indigenous peoples representatives and 6 Party representatives). With regards to the alternate members, of the 12 nominated, 7 are female (4 indigenous peoples representatives and 3 Party representatives) and 5 are male (3 indigenous peoples representatives and 2 Party representatives). Female representatives have been able to engage in different UNFCCC activities and contribute to discussions and processes outside the LCIPP, further expanding the perspective of indigenous women in the UNFCCC process.

Feel free to contact the LCIPP through the email account [lcipp@unfccc.int](mailto:lcipp@unfccc.int)

Follow the LCIPP on its dedicated webportal at: <https://lcipp.unfccc.int> and on Twitter on @AdaptXChange