

STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES COP17

Sir/Madame President, distinguished delegates,

Indigenous peoples have a fundamental principle that governs our relationship with the land. We depend on the land, it gives us life, we are part of it and fully respect its natural cycles, everything you do or fail to do will benefit or affect us, and the impacts of climate change tell us that we share outstanding and important decisions in favor of Mother Earth. Therefore, on behalf of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change, we are turning to you to recommend the following:

1. The Parties undertake to respect international norms and standards of human rights that establish moral and legal obligations to protect and promote the full enjoyment of the rights of indigenous peoples in all issues related to climate change, including land rights, territories and resources, traditional knowledge and their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (DNUDPI).
2. The parties to ensure full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in all mechanisms, bodies and procedures established under the UNFCCC, including mitigation, adaptation, finance, MRV (monitoring, reporting and verification) and transfer of technology.
3. The parties ensure direct and immediate access of indigenous peoples to financing through the creation of a green fund dedicated to address the priority needs of indigenous peoples; we believe that this claim is based on the historic debt that the current model of development has with indigenous peoples.
4. As a result of COP17, the Parties agree to a second commitment period 2013-2020 of the Kyoto Protocol which is binding on all states of the world. This agreement must include measures to ensure full and effective participation of indigenous peoples.
5. Finally, we call to stop the destruction of nature, Mother Earth for indigenous peoples, and therefore demand the paralyzation of extractive mega-projects on indigenous lands and fragile ecosystems that accentuate the impacts of climate change.

The planet's future is in your hands, its decisions must heal Mother Earth. We come to flourish diversity and hope that the decisions of Durban will flourish life on our planet.