Informal Dialogue on Operationalizing the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Summary of Discussions

Ottawa, Canada, September 11-12, 2017

Hosted by Environment and Climate Change Canada, on behalf of Canada, including Indigenous Peoples and the Government of Canada, working in collaboration with Indigenous representatives from the Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Métis National Council, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, the Native Women's Association of Canada, and the Inuit Circumpolar Council-Canada.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this Summary of Discussions report reflect the views and opinions expressed overall by the participants during the Informal Dialogue on Operationalizing the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Ottawa from September 11 to 12, 2017, and no particular views or opinions reflected in the report should be interpreted as being attributed to any one or more of the participants or as reflecting an official policy or position of the Government of Canada or of any other participants' government.

List of Abbreviations
CBD ....Convention on Biological Diversity
COP ....Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC
IIPFCC.......................International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change
IK.............................Indigenous Knowledge
IPs ....Indigenous Peoples
NAP..........................National Adaption Plan
NDC..........................Nationally Determined Contribution
SBSTA.......................Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice
TK............................Traditional Knowledge
UN............................United Nations
UNDRIP ....United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNFCCC ....United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Introduction/Background:

Paragraph 135 of Decision 1/CP.21 ("the COP21 Decision")[1] adopted at the Paris Climate Change Conference (COP21) in December 2015, recognizes the need to strengthen knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and Indigenous Peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change, and establishes a platform for the exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices on mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner. Though formally established, the COP has not yet agreed on how and when to operationalize and launch the *Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform* (the Platform).

At COP22 held in Marrakech, Morocco, in November 2016, the COP:

- Agreed to adopt an incremental approach to developing the Platform with a view to ensuring its effective operationalization;

- Requested the SBSTA Chair to initiate the process of developing the Platform, including convening an Open Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on its operationalization in conjunction with SBSTA46 during the UNFCCC intersessional meetings in Bonn in May 2017, to be co-moderated by the SBSTA Chair and a representative of IPs organizations;

- Invited Parties and other stakeholders to submit by March 31, 2017, submissions on the purpose, content, and structure of the Platform;

- Requested the UNFCCC Secretariat to prepare a report on the May 2017 Open Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue and the views contained in the submissions (which the Secretariat finalized and made available in August 2017); and

- Requested SBSTA to consider the Secretariat's report at SBSTA47 (during COP23 in Bonn in November) under a new agenda item on the Platform, and for SBSTA to conclude its considerations of this agenda item at SBSTA47 by forwarding recommendations for operationalization of the Platform to COP23.

Recognizing that advancing the meaningful implementation of the Platform remains an outstanding priority, and recognizing the need to further advance the discussions in the lead-up to formal negotiations on the Platform at COP23, Environment and Climate Change Canada – on behalf of Canada, including Indigenous Peoples and the Government of Canada, working in collaboration with Indigenous representatives – hosted a working level Informal Dialogue in Ottawa, Canada, on September 11-12, 2017.

The objectives of this Informal Dialogue were to assist in building a collective, common understanding on how the Platform would operate, and to advance discussions for making specific recommendations to COP23 and enabling the immediate operationalization of the Platform. The event, held under Chatham House Rule, brought together more than 60 participants including Parties from both developed and developing countries, Indigenous representatives, and key experts (see Annex 1 for list of participants).

The following is a summary of the discussions that took place over the two day Informal Dialogue, organized according to the agenda, which included modules on: (A) the broader context and status of discussions on the Platform, (B) the May 2017 Open Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue, (C) the possible functions of the Platform, and (D) the possible structure of the Platform.

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[1] http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a01.pdf

A. Context

Participants discussed the context of their work on the Platform, including ongoing climate change negotiations under the UNFCCC as well as broader efforts to enhance IPs participation in the UN system. Many participants noted that:

- The Paris Agreement preamble explicitly recognizes that Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, recognize, respect, promote and adhere to their obligations related to the rights of IPs and local communities.;

- There is a need to mobilize stronger and more ambitious climate action by IPs, as per the COP21 Decision preamble. IPs are eager to show leadership in climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to participate more directly in the implementation of the Paris Agreement;

- There is an urgency to operationalize the Platform, given the daily threat of climate change to the livelihoods of IPs. They are among the first to face the direct consequences of climate change, and are disproportionately affected by its adverse impacts;

- The Platform is an important opportunity to address key issues that directly impacts IPs. Consideration is needed to reconcile the urgency of action against the practicalities of an incremental approach to ensure the Platform's effective operationalization;

- The Platform should contribute to recognizing, respecting, and promoting the interrelated, interdependent and indivisible rights of IPs. It could be a space for the UNFCCC and Parties to learn to be more responsive to the adverse impacts of climate change on IPs, consistent with their respective obligations under domestic and international law;

- In particular, the Platform is an opportunity for the UNFCCC to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), including by establishing ways and means of ensuring the participation of IPs on issues affecting them (UNDRIP Art. 41), consistent with the UN Charter;

- Beyond sharing experiences, knowledge and best practices, it is important to recognize that Parties also recognized the need to "strengthen" the knowledge, technologies, practices, and efforts of local communities and IPs related to addressing and responding to climate change;

- Parties need to increase and enhance their capacity to better understand, engage with, and be informed by the diverse knowledge systems and experience of IPs, including their distinct status and rights; and

- For the Platform to be successful, all Parties and IPs need to stand behind it, and it needs to be truly responsive to their needs.

In terms of participation at the UNFCCC, several participants further noted that:

- IPs are the first protectors of Mother Earth, and therefore should fully and effectively participate in all actions addressing climate change, including within the UNFCCC process through the Platform, but also more broadly in domestic and international climate change actions and policy.

- Non-party actors are recognized under the UNFCCC, as are the needs and interests of persons and groups that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. However, IPs should be differentiated from others, and this should be reflected in how to consider their participation under the UNFCCC through the Platform.

- At the 72nd UN General Assembly, a procedural resolution for *'Enhancing the Participation of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives and Institutions in Meetings of Relevant UN Bodies on Issues Affecting them Moving forward*' was adopted. Moving forward, the Platform represents an opportunity for the UNFCCC to develop its own tailor-made approach to enhance the participation of IPs in the context of this resolution and consistent with the UNDRIP.

- Advancing the Platform should be consistent with Article 42 of UNDRIP, which calls on UN bodies, specialized agencies and States to promote respect for and full application of the Declaration and follow up on its effectiveness. Accordingly, the interrelated right to *Free Prior and Informed Consent* (UNDRIP Art. 19) should be central to the work of the Platform, including in the context of the TK and IK systems (UNDRIP Art. 31).

- Other UN bodies and inter-governmental organizations have already established procedures for enhancing engagement with IPs, including: the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); the CBD; the International Labour Organization (ILO); the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and the Arctic Council.

In discussing the history of IPs representation at the UN in more detail, several participants further recognized the importance of how:

- IPs' participation in the UN has long-standing historical antecedents, including the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations (1982), through to the UN General Assembly's adoption of UNDRIP (2007);

- IPs have a right to self-determination (UNDRIP Art. 3), have been governing themselves from time immemorial, and have their own governing bodies and representative institutions, with their own constituents;

- IPs have a right to cultural heritage, TK and IK, and it is of specific relevance to the Platform (UNDRIP Art. 31);

- Some progress has been made towards IPs being self-represented in relevant bodies within the UN, in order to enhance their engagement in issues affecting them;

- Important ongoing institutions and mandates have been created such as the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of IPs; and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous peoples;

- A number of important steps have been taken for ensuring the direct participation of IPs, which were once seen to be outside of the UN's procedures, ensuring their accreditation to relevant meetings that is distinct from other NGOs;

- An important forum for IPs to engage at the UN is an open IPs' Caucus. By providing a space for IPs to meet and organize amongst themselves, the Caucus is an important element for successfully enhancing the participation of IPs at the UN. Specifically for the UNFCCC, the IIPFCC serves as this role, and as such also has an important function; and

- The UNDRIP sets out the minimum standards for ensuring the dignity and well-being of IPs, as per its Article 43.

B.   May 2017 Open Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue

The Secretariat's summary report[2] of the May 2017 Bonn Open Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue was discussed, noting that the report is not an agreed text but rather a compilation of views that were raised both through the submissions and the dialogue.

Participants noted how the summary report identified three main functions for the Platform:

  i.   Exchange of experiences and good practices: making space for TK and IK systems and developing safeguards;

  ii. Climate change policies and actions: facilitation of the integration of diverse knowledge systems, practices and engagement of IPs in policies and programs; and

  iii. Capacity for engagement of IPs: capacity building for IPs, specifically in regard to the UNFCCC.

Other points in the summary report that were noted by some of the participants as important for guiding the Platform, including that it should be:
- An innovative and highly visible place for IP's engagement;
- Flexible in order to be implemented in a phased approach and evolve over time;
- A mechanism to enhance synergies outside the UNFCCC, link with other non-State actors, and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals; and
- A trusted space for dialogue.

In response to the summary report, some participants noted specific concerns, including:
- References to the "validation" of TK. Several participants noted that TK does not need to be validated outside its Indigenous context, and it is unclear who would undertake any such validation. Rather, knowledge systems are best defined by TK and IK practitioners and knowledge holders.

- The report's focus is primarily on the establishment of the Platform, which is only the second part of paragraph 135 of the COP21 Decision. Some participants emphasized that the first part of paragraph 135 on recognizing and strengthening IPs knowledge and capacity should not be forgotten.

C.   Functions

The purpose of this module was to exchange views on the possible functions of the Platform, focusing the discussion on the linkages to knowledge, policies and actions, capacity and participation.

i)   Knowledge

There was fairly strong support from many participants that the Platform should be a 'space' for:
- IPs and Parties to come together on equal terms to exchange views, knowledge and experiences in addressing climate change, taking into account the diversity of their knowledge systems, and highlighting best practices and lessons learned;

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2 http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2017/sbsta/eng/06.pdf

- The exchange of TK and IK from the perspective of IPs, with safeguards in place for its protection and for respecting intellectual property rights. Participants also recognized that there should be consideration for how these safeguards will operate within the Platform before the actual exchange of knowledge itself, and that these safeguards need to be developed together with IPs. They also recognized the value of TK and IK holders being able to speak on their own behalf;

- Showcasing and promoting how TK and IK can contribute to addressing climate change, including both mitigation and adaptation solutions;

- Informing, influencing and providing advice to Parties. Whereas the scope of the Platform is global, it also needs to be relevant at the national and local level, for example, by informing planning processes for Parties' NDCs and NAPs;

- Knowledge that can flow outwards from the local and national level in order to be relevant to a majority of IPs; and

- Addressing knowledge gaps to serve the needs of IPs, but also to enhance the understanding of Parties on the value of engaging with IPs and their diverse knowledge systems.

Some participants also noted that the Platform could:

- Undertake assessments on the work of the UNFCCC from the perspective of IPs;

- Make recommendations on guidelines and mechanisms for promoting increased and effective engagement with IPs;

- In order to be successful, and genuinely responsive to the needs of, and impacts upon, all IPs, ensure the direct participation of IPs and be responsive to their status, rights, and needs;

- Rather than being a mechanism focused on the exchange of TK itself, it should focus on best practices and lessons learned for integrating TK into climate change action and policy;

- Showcase examples of best practices/solutions already being implemented by IPs, such as:
  o Seed sharing;
  o The role of the buffalo in preventing, mitigating, and adapting to climate change;
  o Protecting sacred places; and
  o Elders teaching youth.

- Also recognize the challenges and threats that IPs face, including violence perpetrated by Parties and third parties. Some examples identified by the participants include:
  o Denial of land and water rights;
  o Loss of language and traditional structures for transmitting TK and IK to new generations; and
  o Climate change mainly caused by burning fossil fuels.

- Promote an understanding of the livelihoods of IPs, which includes their practices. Some participants noted that, in many countries, a lack of understanding and respect for IPs livelihoods and knowledge systems has led to policies that restrict and even criminalize their practitioners. This can also result in the loss of knowledge about these practices. Thus, in addition to safeguards for protecting TK and IK, there is also a need to recognize and promote the protection of the knowledge holders and practitioners; and

- Promote synergies and linkages with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) on the value of the richness and diversity of TK and IK systems.

ii)   Policies and Action

With regards to how climate policies and actions in particular could be discussed through the Platform, many participants noted that the Platform should:

- Be a mechanism for Parties to fully and effectively engage IPs, including empowering them to inform and influence climate policy and actions domestically (such as NDCs and NAPs) and internationally. Participants recognized that incorporating the views and voices of IPs in climate change policies enhances their value and effectiveness;

- Provide the opportunity for IPs to enhance their engagement and have their views on key issues considered within the UNFCCC process. This could include as a kind of 'advisory' function to the UNFCCC on IPs, IK, and TK; and

- Foster synergies between IPs and governments.

Some participants also noted that the Platform should:

- Honour the harmonious relationship IPs have with nature, their lands, territories, waters and coastal seas, and other resources, including to act as a leveraging tool for IPs to access technology and finance; and

- Be a two-way flow of information from the global to the subnational, and from the subnational to the global.

iii)   Capacity and participation

Participants noted that enhancing 'capacity' could include several aspects, such as: the capacity to influence climate policy and actions; the capacity by Parties, the UNFCCC system, and other non-Party actors to recognize and respect the rights of IPs, and to engage effectively with IPs and value their IK and TK; and the capacity of IPs to participate and engage effectively in the UNFCCC.

On the capacity to influence, some participants indicated that:

- IPs should be able to influence negotiations and decisions at the UNFCCC, and that the Platform represents a good opportunity;

- IPs need to be in the room and effectively participate across UNFCCC processes;

- Enhanced participation, in itself, is an avenue for developing capacity and understanding diverse points of views;

- It will be important for the Platform to be inclusive and responsive to the diversity of IPs;

- Access to resources to support their participation in climate policies and actions is critical; and

- In terms of gaining access to climate finance (e.g. through the Green Climate Fund and Global Environmental Fund), there should be no distinction made on the basis of IPs within developed and developing countries.

Some participants noted that the above should also take into account needing to enhance the capacity of Parties and other non-Party actors in better understanding the role and value of IPs, and their traditional practices, in addressing climate change.

On building the capacity of IPs to engage, some participants indicated that:

- As part of paragraph 135's recognition that the knowledge and efforts of IPs to address climate change needs to be strengthened, the Platform needs to provide information to the local level in appropriate language and formats;

- The Platform should not be seen as a tool only for IPs, but rather as a tool to achieve the objectives of the UNFCCC and to be better informed through the effective engagement of IPs; and

- As the livelihoods and TK of IPs are under threat, capacity building on new technologies will be required by IPs. The work of the CBD provides a good example of capacity training, and the use of a web-based portal to provide information to communities.

D. Structure

The purpose of this module was to exchange views on the possible structure of the Platform, particularly in relation to governance, organization, outputs, and linkages to the broader UNFCCC. Participants were encouraged to reflect on existing structures under the UNFCCC and in other international fora, such as: the CBD; the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; and the Arctic Council.

Participants were also encouraged to reflect on how the Platform could be structured over the short-term versus long-term, the key elements that could be established as part of a COP23 decision, and how the Platform could evolve over time.

In reflecting on the CBD, participants noted various features for engaging IPs that should be considered for UNFCCC Platform, with a focus on IPs participation and self-representation/selection on CBDs *Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j)* regarding TK and other related provisions of the CBD. Some participants also highlighted how under the CBD there is:

- A voluntary funding mechanism to support IPs' participation at the CBD;

- Accreditation of IPs at CBD meetings that is distinct from NGOs;

- A focal point for IPs within the Secretariat of the CBD; and

- Capacity building initiatives organized by the CBD Secretariat for IPs.

In reflecting on other relevant structures/bodies, including possible best practices and lessons learned, some participants noted:

- The Arctic Council offers a good model where IPs have official status as Permanent Participants, which enables them to sit together with Artic state representatives, up to the Ministerial level. Working Groups under the Arctic Council are also able to provide information and input directly into the political process;

- The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as an advisory function to the UN Economic and Social Council, could also serve as a good example for the Platform;

- There are several existing structures under the UNFCCC that could be relevant to the Platform, ranging from: work programmes such as the Lima and Nairobi work programmes; governing bodies such as the Climate Technology Centre and Network; contact groups, e.g. for reviewing work programmes; and constituted bodies such as the Technology Executive Committee; and more ad-hoc groups such as the Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Impact of the Implementation of Response Measures;

- A clear understanding of what the body aims to achieve, its activities, and time frames (e.g. short-term versus long-term) are important for deciding its form and building trust between Parties and non-Party actors; and

- Other learnings from existing efforts to engage IPs, and non-Parties more generally, in the work of existing UNFCCC processes (e.g. as observers, calls for submissions, participating in workshops, capacity building and knowledge sharing activities), are that costs are a key issue for the scope of engagement, the initial engagement of non-Party actors as experts is critical for winning trust, and the importance of focussing first on what is 'doable'.

i)   Overall structure of Platform

As part of the ensuing discussion on the overall structure for the Platform, many participants noted that:

- The Platform needs to be structured as a 'space' where IPs, including their knowledge holders, can engage with equal status and on equal terms with Parties for a transparent dialogue and sharing of views;

- As parts of being operationalized, IPs need to be directly involved and have an equal say in decision making regarding the governance and work programme of the Platform. Participants noted that holding discussions under SBSTA — a Party-driven process — prevents IPs from being able to fully participate and influence its operationalization;

- A tailor-made approach should be developed for the structure of the Platform, in particular to reflect the diversity and uniqueness of IPs, their rights, as well as the importance of enhancing their engagement under the UNFCCC;

- The Platform should be allowed to evolve, grow and strengthen over time, with a somewhat flexible structure and a 'learning by doing' approach that can build on what has worked and lessons learned from the initial stages; and

- The Platform should not be an ad-hoc initiative, but rather an ongoing or formal "open-ended" mechanism whose evolution should be guided by clearly established timeframes and recognition on the need to take urgent action on climate change by engaging IPs.

Some participants also noted that key considerations/options for the structure of the Platform could include:

- The Working Group for Article 8(j) of the CBD as a potential model and precedent for the Platform, along with other important models such as the Arctic Council;

- The Platform should be a permanent entity/structure under the UNFCCC to serve the needs of IPs and local communities;

- The need for a panel to serve as an advisory function to the UNFCCC on IPs, IK, and TK;

- Further consideration is needed on how existing structures for IPs to interact with Parties at the local, national, and regional level, can better feed into the international level at the UNFCCC, including through the designation of focal points at the country level for sharing knowledge;

- The IIPFCC can play an important role in facilitating these linkages as it is open for all IPs; and

- A space where IPs can also discuss issues among themselves to achieve consensus.

ii)   Membership and governance

On membership and governance of the Platform, many participants advocated for a structure that:

- Facilitates a balance and equal participation between IPs and Parties, as well as being balanced regionally and between developed and developing countries;

- IPs representation should be self-represented/self-selected, and distinct from the participation of NGOs and non-Parties consistent with the UNDRIP. It should also be recognized that IPs have their own processes for deciding on who will participate in the meetings;

- Leadership of the Platform also needs to be balanced between IPs and Parties;

- Allows for the Platform to be periodically reviewed, including its mandate and governance structure.

With respect to the **membership** of the Platform, other considerations/options noted by some of the participants included:

- While recognising that a COP decision on a mandate to launch the operationalization of the Platform cannot infringe on the Draft Rules of Procedures of the UNFCCC, which reflect a Party-driven process, equal status and participation by non-Parties could be facilitated by creating a Platform space that, once operational, is not formally bound by all the modalities and procedures of the UNFCCC, for example, using the model of the Arctic Council;

- If needed, a working group or agenda item under the SBSTA that is still primarily a Party-driven process could be initially established, but could then further develop modalities and procedures for the Platform that would give equal status to non-Parties;

- A tailor-made approach for the Platform should consider the diversity of IPs around the world, with some participants noting that representation by IPs should be balanced across the seven regions recognized by the IIPFCC;

- Consideration should be given to IPs having a priority to speak as part of the Platform.

With respect to the **governance** of the Platform, other considerations/options noted by some of the participants included:

- A "small group" should be appointed to lead the work of the Platform, including: the responsibility for the overall operations and technical work; developing the agendas for broader meetings; communicating with other international bodies as appropriate; and providing advice to Parties and the COP. As a kind of 'hub' within the Platform, options elaborated by some of the participants include:

    o A core expert Advisory Group/Panel, that, for example, could involve experts, such as the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and could be informed by an Elders Advisory Committee at the regional level;

    o An Open Ad-Hoc Working Group under SBSTA, that could meet regularly, including to: review the implementation and ways for strengthening the Platform; and to provide assessments to UNFCCC from an Indigenous perspective, including on promoting and enhancing the effective participation of IPs in climate policy decision making and implementation of the objectives of the UNFCCC; and

- A Facilitative Group led by two Co-Facilitators for: establishing the Platform's work plan (including initially following a COP23 decision), acting as a main interface between IPs and Parties, and linking to the knowledge sharing in regional meetings for exchanging knowledge and capacity building.

- The "small group" could consist of two or four Co-Chairs/Co-Champions, and/or a small governance committee. In any case, the group's composition should reflect a balance between developed and developing countries, Parties and IPs, and gender;

- Indigenous representation in the "small group" should reflect a balance of the IIFPCC regions. This could involve seven individual seats on an advisory committee, and/or a rotating Co-Chairs/Co-Champions; and

- A formal review of the Platform should occur after five years in 2023. This could include the Platform itself reviewing its work and making recommendations for further enhancements in a report to be considered by the COP. A review in 2023 could be done in conjunction with the Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement, and every five years thereafter.

iii)   Modes of work and outputs

To the extent that Parties are unable to agree to detailed modalities and procedures at COP23, most participants supported an approach whereby the specific modalities and procedures for the Platform should be developed within the Platform itself (i.e. be part of the initial work of the Platform), but that there should be a clear timeline of this work in order to avoid an open-ended process with no end.

Other considerations/options noted by some of the participants on the mode of work and outputs of the Platform include:

- The Platform could meet once a year and be presided by the Co-Chairs/Co-Champions. The final outcomes of these meetings should be to present ways for enhancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement;

- Multiple elements/layers to engagement by the Platform could include:
    - An annual multi-stakeholder meeting, for example to share best practices and views on key issues, promote and raise awareness of the impacts and experiences of IPs in addressing climate change, gather inputs for reviewing the work plan and implementation of the Platform;
    - Regional meetings for knowledge exchange and capacity building;
    - A website to communicate the work of the Platform and facilitate information sharing as appropriate (e.g. with the appropriate safeguards).

- The outputs of the Platform could be periodically considered by the SBSTA and/or the COP. Some participants cautioned, however, that any agenda item created to consider the Platform's outputs would be subject to the Party-driven Draft Rules and Procedures of the UNFCCC; and

- The IIPFCC's Global Steering Committee has been endorsed regionally and it could fulfill the role as a technical body to the Platform, in addition to the UNFCCC Secretariat.

iv)   Financial and Secretariat support

Participants recognized that Secretariat support, and subsequent funding from Parties, including for supporting the direct and full participation of IPs in the Platform, is a critical part of the process for operationalizing the Platform and ensuring its success.

Some participants also noted that:

- Many IPs have a lack of access to financial resources due to the entrenchment of notions of developed/developing countries;

- The Platform should be funded through the core UNFCCC budget;

- There should be a focal point within the UNFCCC Secretariat;

- The scope and priority of activities undertaken, including by the proposed Co-Champions supported by the Secretariat, will ultimately be subject to the availability of resources. Hence the need for serious Party commitment to the objective of the Platform;

- There are already funding needs to ensure adequate representation of IPs when the Platform is discussed at SBSTA47 and decided upon at COP23; and

- A separate fund should be established for supporting the participation of IPs' representatives from developed and developing countries under the UNFCCC, based on the model of the CBD. However, some concerns were raised over 'voluntary' contributions being able to secure sufficient and predictable funding on an ongoing basis.

D.   Going forward / next steps

Participants strongly supported the need for ongoing conversations amongst Parties and IPs in the lead-up to, and on the margins of, COP23, including to engage Parties that to date have not been active in the informal discussions in order to ensure a positive and meaningful decision for advancing the operationalization of the Platform following a decision at COP23.

A number of other options/considerations/alternatives were made by some participants on the incremental steps going forward and potential key elements for a COP23 decision, including:

- Establishing a core group as part of the Platform (e.g. "Facilitative Group" of IP and Party representatives) to develop an initial work plan over the short-term (e.g. until 2019) that could be reviewed by a broader multi-stakeholder group of the Platform (e.g. at a first annual meeting of the Platform in 2018 in conjunction with COP24). Such a group could also serve as a space for discussions and the sharing of views between IPs and Parties on equal terms;

- Establishing an ad-hoc/open-ended working group under the SBSTA to further discuss the structure and modalities for a permanent Platform within the UNFCCC, including on its membership, leadership, support from the Secretariat, and need for funding. While this ad-hoc working group could be the vehicle for further developing the operationalization of the Platform, it would not constitute the actual launch of the Platform itself;

- A mandate for the Platform to proceed with being formally launched under the strong leadership of Co-Champions and clear direction to further consult and develop its own work plan and modalities and procedures; and

- The Presidency appointing two Co-Champions/Facilitators to lead the work going forward on the Platform. Alternatively, there could be a call for Parties/IPs to nominate candidates to a core group with a mandate to convene at SBSTA48, in May 2018, to elect its co-leaders and develop an initial work plan.

Overall, while some participants noted the benefits and practicalities of taking incremental steps towards a full and robust operationalizing the Platform, others stressed the significant urgency in which the Platform should move forward.

Annex 1: List of participants

Indigenous Peoples Representatives	
IIPFCC* Co-chair (New Zealand)	Lisa Te Heu Heu
IIPFCC* Co-chair (Guatemala)	Lola Gabnal
IIPFCC* Global Steering Committee (Asia)	Grace Balawag
IIPFCC* Global Steering Committee (Africa)	Gideon Abraham Sanago
IIPFCC* Global Steering Committee (Arctic)	Inka Saara Arttijeff
IIPFCC* Global Steering Committee (Easter Europe and Russia)	Varvara Korkina
IIPFCC* Latin America	Edwin Vázquez Campos
IIPFCC* North America	Andrea Carmen
IIPFCC* North America	Chief Bill Erasmus
IIPFCC* Pacific	Samson Viulu
IIPFCC* Focal point, Thailand (Nepal)	Lakpa Nuri Sherpa
IIPFCC* Focal point (Panama)	Estebancio Castro
IIPFCC* Technical team (USA)	Kim Gottschalck
IIPFCC* Technical team (Kenya)	Stanley Kimaren
IIPFCC* Technical team	Johnson Cerda
IIPFCC* Technical team (International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs)	Kathrin Wessendorf
IIPFCC* Technical team (Philippines)	Herminia Minnie M. Degawan
New Zealand	Tina Porou
Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg (Canada)	Claudette Commanda
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan (Canada)	Chief Kirby Whiteduck
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan (Canada)	Dan Kohoko
Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations (Canada)	Grand Chief Littlechild
Grand Chief Littlechild's staff (Canada)	Crystal Lameman
Haudenosaunee External Relations Committee (Canada)	Kenneth Deer
Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (Canada)	Roger Hunka
Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (Canada)	Amy Nahwegahnow
Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (Canada)	Brad Darch
Native Women's Association of Canada	Marshall Ballard
Native Women's Association of Canada	Noreen McATeer
Assembly of First Nations (Canada)	Francois Paulette
Assembly of First Nations (Canada)	Graeme Reed
Assembly of First Nations (Canada)	Tonio Sadik
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (Canada)	Will David
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (Canada)	Tim Argetsinger
Inuit Circumpolar Conference - Canada	Tom Sheldon
Governmental Representatives	
Antigua and Barbuda	Ruth Spencer
Bolivia	Ivan Zambrana Flores
Kenya	Thomas Lelekotien
Ecuador	Pamela Rocha
Fiji (representing the COP23 Presidency)	Raumanu Pranjivan
European Union	Annela Anger-Kraavi
Belgium	Geert Fremout
Germany	Arne Riedel
New Zealand	Tania Gerrard

Norway	Leif John Fosse
Norway	Marianne Bruusgaard
Australia	Lisa Gittos
Brazil	Ricardo Bernhard
Canada (co-facilitator)	Larry Hegan
Canada	Grégoire Baribeau
Canada	Christian Holloway
Canada	Sara Fortin
Canada	Tim Gull
ENGOs/International Organizations/Academics Representatives	
UNFCCC Secretariat	Rojina Manandhar
UNFCCC Secretariat	Koko Warner
SBSTA Chair	Carlos Fuller
UNESCO	Doug Nakashima
UNESCO	Jennifer Rubis
Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat	Viviana Figueroa
Climate Action Network Canada	Catherine Abreu
Centre for International Environmental Law	Erika Lennon
University of Alaska (co-facilitator)	Dalee Sambo Dorough

* International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change