

Distinguished Members of the Board of the Green Climate Fund,

We, the members of the Indigenous Peoples Advocacy team to the GCF, are taking the liberty of writing to you with reference to the ongoing process of elaboration and preparation of an Indigenous Peoples Policy at the Green Climate Fund. It is a known fact that to us Indigenous Peoples, finalizing this policy is a matter of urgency and utmost importance for the Fund to adopt, in order to ensure on the one hand that our rights are safeguarded and on the other that our positive contribution to the Fund's goals and purposes is enabled.

Since the decision taken by the Board in its 15th meeting to mandate the Secretariat to develop a proposal for an Indigenous Peoples Policy and to submit it for consideration at B17, we have been following the process very closely, and wish to reiterate our appreciation for the quality of the draft that has been proposed by the Secretariat based on the input and comments of stakeholders.

It was our expectation that the final draft could be included in the agenda of B18 for Board consideration and approval. However, we noticed that the item is absent in the draft agenda. We understand the practical considerations related to an understandably busy agenda. However, we note the degree of high expectations and widespread interest in the policy (as demonstrated by the unprecedented number of submissions and inputs to the initial draft and the Indigenous Peoples' Submission for the Call for Public Inputs to the IP policy dated August 3, 2017, which was likewise endorsed by 62 IPOs, CSOs and other support organizations). As such we believe the Board should give a signal that there is a sincere interest and will to ensure that such policy be adopted in a clear and verifiable timeframe, while providing for enough time for the production of a high- quality text that fully reflects the breadth of inputs and contributions received.

We therefore would suggest that, in case the agenda does not allow for a full discussion and adoption of the Indigenous Peoples' policy (and possibly the ESMS) at B18, at least a slot be allocated for a progress report to the Board by the Secretariat so that stakeholders and observers will also be able to have a clearer picture of the possible deadlines and timing for discussion and adoption after B18.

We are concerned about the absence of the ESMS in the B. 18 agenda, that we believe is another key policy to be adopted as a matter of urgency, in particular in conjunction with the Board plan to support REDD+ projects. We are likewise concerned about the envisaged discussion and expected approval of the REDD+ Scorecard at B18. We believe, as we have expressed in our previous letters to you, that the RFP for REDD+ needs more time for a thorough analysis and consultation with stakeholders and that adopting this without an Indigenous peoples policy first could be problematic.

Thanking you for your consideration we send our best regards.

Sincerely yours,
The Indigenous Peoples Advocacy team to the GCF