

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS ' FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE:

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Adaptation to climate change is not a new challenge for indigenous peoples. We have already been forced to adapt to massive changes but without consultation or consideration. As far as adaptation, technology and technology transfer is concerned we trust that our experience of exclusion in the negotiations of the Kyoto Protocol will not be repeated. We look forward to the full participation of the indigenous peoples with all on going and future discussions on adaptation processes including transfer of technologies and capacity building.

In this regard it should be noted that due to our high vulnerability, indigenous peoples should be prioritised in technologies transfers and capacity building to effectively use these. However, great caution should be exercised in introducing new technologies into indigenous communities where the possible negative impacts have not been clearly estimated and where adequate safeguards have not been instituted.

The principles of technologies transfer must be equitable, mutually supportive, gender sensitive, and clearly take into account and give precedence to indigenous knowledge with special attention to cultural norms and spiritual values. The basic principles of free prior and informed consent must be respected in all projects in which technologies transfer is envisaged. Traditional knowledge such as traditional weather forecasting, flood management, crop selection, etc. must be recognized and promoted.

We encourage the initiation of small innovative pilot projects in order to test new technologies in the fields where they are sought to be implemented. These pilot projects should be closely monitored and evaluated for impact by the concerned communities of indigenous peoples before any decision is made to institute full implementation of such projects or technologies.

The Adaptation Funds or any other funds made available for technology transfer must prioritise support for such projects using indigenous knowledge. Intellectual property of indigenous peoples must be respected in this process. Where technology is to be imported into an indigenous community it must be with the free prior and informed consent of the concerned indigenous peoples and must respect traditional norms, values, and practices.

Capacity building in relation to technology transfer must address indigenous peoples' self identified needs and priorities. It must be gender sensitive and has to include support for strengthening existing capacity as a priority. Indigenous Peoples communities must be encouraged and strengthened in order to participate fully in the use of adaptation funds for mitigation of climate change impacts and impacts of projects which may be directed to mitigating climate change.