



CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT 2019



**A RACE WE
CAN WIN**

**World Indigenous Peoples' Climate Leadership
UNSG – Climate Action Summit
September 21st, 22nd, UN headquarter
Room ECOSOC**

Concept Note

Context

To boost ambition and accelerate actions to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres will host the 2019 Climate Action Summit on 23 September to meet the climate challenge. The Summit will showcase a leap in collective national climate ambition, and it envisions to demonstrate massive movements in the real economy in support of the agenda. Together, these commitments for Climate actions will send strong market and political signals and inject momentum in the “race to the top” among countries, companies, cities and civil society and indigenous peoples that is needed to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the invitation of the UN Secretary-General, the World Indigenous Peoples have decided to propose an initiative that will contribute to enhance climate ambition on adaptation and mitigation while implementing the sustainable development goals.

The world Indigenous Peoples (IPs) have been engaging in climate change processes through the years. As one of the Groups under the UNFCCC, indigenous peoples have been actively engaging with States and relevant actors in promoting their contributions to climate change, and their key demands for a rights-based approach to climate solutions. The recent IPCC report stresses the need to secure the remaining forest biodiversity which are largely in indigenous territories as key to achieving the Paris Agreement.

In line with the Climate Summit, indigenous peoples have been preparing and consolidating its commitments and actions to contribute to the global ambition to climate change action both for mitigation and adaptation. This initiative was built through a process of consultation from all the seven regions: Africa; the Arctic; Asia; Central and South America and the Caribbean; Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; North America; and the Pacific. Through many fora such as the UN Permanent Forum of Indigenous Issues, the UNFCCC Bonn Intersessional Meeting, the Abu Dhabi Preparatory Meeting and the recent Indigenous Peoples Preparatory Meeting in Mexico City early September hosted by the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This Meeting had representatives from the seven (7) global regions of indigenous peoples. Further, the Special Envoy, H.E. Ambassador Luis Alfonso Da Alba attended this event and provided a thorough

orientation on the Climate Summit, and welcomed the collective initiative of indigenous peoples to contribute to the Climate Summit. This Preparatory Meeting discussed and finalized the Initiative of Indigenous Peoples' Commitment and Actions for the Climate Summit. This Initiative has gathered xx endorsements from indigenous peoples organizations and networks across the 7 global regions of indigenous peoples, as well as XX from advocate organizations, Philanthropic Institution, civil society organizations, the Academe among others. More and more endorsements are being received.

The initiative

This initiative (see in Annex I) aims to build and strengthen partnerships between Indigenous Peoples and their representative organization, States and non-states actors that commit to act together at the local, national, regional and international level to develop concrete actions that will consolidate indigenous-lead climate action for the protection of ecosystems and implementation of Indigenous Peoples' right in order to reduce GHG emissions, increase carbon sequestration, develop nature based solutions and provide access to renewable energy to millions of indigenous peoples.

This initiative is also in response to the recent findings of the IPCC Report on climate change and to strengthen the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform that aims to promote and protect indigenous peoples' traditional knowledges.

This is the first time in history where Indigenous Peoples have taken a global Initiative that combines many of the nine thematic issues of the Climate Summit to highlight indigenous peoples' contributions to climate adaptation and mitigation with concrete, immediate and strategic actions that will contribute to cut greenhouse gases emissions by 45% by 2030 and lay the ground for zero net emissions by 2050 while contributing to SDGs achievement.

The initiative remains open for endorsement by States and non-state actors such as civil societies organization, indigenous peoples' organization, financial institutions, academics, business among others. We encourage those who want to support this initiative to send the following information: name of organization/institution; country; name and email of contact person to:

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim: hindououmar@gmail.com

The list of signatories will be published during the event on September 21st

Indigenous Peoples across the globe will come together in New York during the Preparatory Days prior to the Climate Summit 21st and 22nd of September to present its Initiative to States and other relevant actors build and strengthen support and partnership for collaboration and joint actions in implementing this Initiative. Indigenous leaders from the seven regions will also be presenting their specific situation, aspirations, contributions and actions to combat climate change. The events of Indigenous peoples include open, interactive and constructive discussions and exchanges with State parties and other key actors. Attached is the programme.

Logistical Information for Participants

Access to the room (ECOSOC) is limited to people with a valid UN accreditation or special accreditation for the UNSG Climate Summit. In order to facilitate the operational dimension of the event, please come early.

Room capacity is limited. Seat will be reserved for States delegates and Ministers of countries that are signatories of the initiative, as well as all leaders and speakers or organization joining the initiative.

For any logistical question please contact Eileen Mairena: eileen.mairena@gmail.com
(if this is fine with Eileen and she already received the invite)

Interpretation is available in Spanish, French and English

The Opening session and Presentations of Indigenous leaders are open to media and will be webcasted on UNTV (tbc).

For any media enquiry, please contact Janene Yazzie: janeney@treatycouncil.org

Attachment:

- Initiative
- Programme