

FCPF Participant Assembly, Seventh Meeting
Arusha, Tanzania, 2nd Nov. 2014

Distinguished Participants Assembly Members,

It is our great pleasure to share our remarks on behalf of Indigenous Peoples observers here in the seventh Participant Assembly of FCPF, in the beautiful surrounding here in Arusha, Tanzania.

We have come a long way in building partnership and trustful relation with the FCPF and our REDD+ countries. Our relationship has evolved from throwing tomatoes and eggs to the FCPF team and the Bank in general to now sitting around the same table. We the IPs would like to acknowledge and thank sincerely the FCPF program in helping to facilitate the inclusion and participation of IPs at global, regional most importantly national levels. Therefore, this important space for participation should be guarded jealously. We now urge all REDD countries at the national level to emulate this bridging and bonding of social capital, cordial relationship, and stretch their arms to indigenous peoples and other stakeholders. The FCPF team should take stewardship in creating this enabling environment of social inclusion at the national and local levels. We encourage the rest of the World Bank to adopt the FCPF model of inclusive and participatory approaches to development

We congratulate REDD countries that have developed participatory structures for IPs inclusion in the national REDD+ process. This has proved that indigenous peoples and government agencies could work together for joint venture. We appreciate the continued support from FCPF in ensuring the participation of Indigenous Peoples' Observers including all working groups and committees.

We also would like to acknowledge your efforts for ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples' in all level of decision-making process of FCPF. We further would like to encourage you to prioritize this process, so that indigenous peoples will get the opportunity to share the concerns to be addressed right from the beginning of readiness phase of REDD+ both at national and global levels.

However, we would like to draw your attention again on the diluting situation of safeguards of indigenous peoples in the new Environment and Social Standard (ESS)-7 of WB on indigenous peoples. We are not happy with the clause, as it would jeopardize the land security and livelihoods of indigenous peoples. This will also lead to human rights abuse, as the government will not be obliged to follow any obligations to protect the rights of indigenous peoples. We look forward to the further consultation on the draft standards for us to raise our concerns on the rights of indigenous peoples as accorded by the international human rights instruments and we demand the assurance that the clause will be taken out of the policy in order to ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous peoples in REDD+ and ensure their rights for the protection and promotion of indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge, customary institution and cultural practices, that has been managing and protecting the world remaining forest and ecosystem since immemorial.

Our other concern revolves on the Capacity Building Program that has been slow in implementation, while the national program activities have already moved forward. Therefore, we look forward for the FMT to expedite disbursement before it comes too late. As you all know, these funds are not sufficient to build capacity of indigenous peoples' organizations, which has been increasing along with the additional numbers of FCPF countries. Therefore, we further request for consideration of additional funds in PC19 towards this program.

Thank You

(Presented by Pasang Dolma Sherpa, IPs observer from Asia and Pacific to the PC, FCPF)