

Indigenous Peoples Statement on R-Package
11th Participants Committee Meeting, Asuncion, Paraguay,
By: Soikan Meitiaki, IPs Observer, FCPF

Distinguished Participants,

We would like to briefly touch upon some key issues related to the Readiness package, its objectives, scope and modalities to express our concerns and suggestions for improvement.

After a close analysis of the draft Readiness Package note we have identified three areas that require immediate action and improvement.

The first one, and most worrying for us is the *lack of explicit* reference in that document to the *need to assess respect and compliance to the Cancun safeguards let alone of indigenous peoples' rights*. We find this omission serious and requiring immediate correction. As a matter of fact, and in order to ensure compliance of any Readiness activity with the Cancun mandate and the FCPF Charter as well, the Readiness Package would have to document progress in the implementation of the whole set of relevant indigenous peoples' rights and in the respect of traditional knowledge. The section on the "implementation framework" only refers generally to land tenure, benefit sharing, and carbon rights but with no specific consideration for the particular other socio-economic livelihoods *status and condition of indigenous peoples*. We urge therefore the introduction of specific ***criteria and indicators to***

assess performance in the promotion and respect of indigenous peoples' rights in accordance to relevant international obligations and instruments, including the UN these participatory processes and their outcomes.

Secondly, we would like to point to the need to clarify the purpose of the Readiness Package, being that it is still unclear whether the procedures and criteria proposed in the draft Readiness Concept note would be relevant for an endorsement of the Package by the Participants' Committee or to the definition of eligibility for an applicant REDD country to access the Carbon Fund. We believe the two purposes should be kept separate and the Readiness Package should focus on the assessment of the quality of Readiness and - among others as already pointed out - of the degree to which safeguards and Indigenous Peoples' rights are recognized and respected.

Thirdly, we would like to underline the need to clarify the relevance of the Readiness package for the assessment of the whole of readiness activities carried out in the relevant country. As a matter of fact, while the Readiness Concept Note specifies that it would apply to all Readiness activities the same document seem to provide criteria only for activities supported by the FCPF. In the case of UNREDD for instance it does not clarify how the Readiness Package would include information on the Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria and their respect in the Readiness phase, referring only to the FCPF SESAs and ESMF.

Thank you