

STATEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OBSERVER REPRESENTATIVE

FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY (FCPF) PARTICIPANTS ASSEMBLY ELEVENTH (PA11) MEETING AND PARTICIPANTS COMMITTEE TWENTY SIXTH (PC26) MEETING, OCTOBER 9 – 11, 2018-WASHINGTON DC

Co-Chairs, Distinguished Participants Assembly Members, Friends and Colleagues,

We feel very privileged to be part of this Eleventh Meeting of the Participants Assembly (PA11) and 26th meeting of the Participants Committee (PC26) on this 10th anniversary of the FCPF. We would like to extend our gratitude to the World Bank's FCPF-FMT for their strategic leadership and commitment that has seen the smooth implementation of the REDD plus readiness, including the capacity building program for IPs and CSOs which has continued to produce encouraging results among indigenous peoples and local communities.

We express our gratitude to the FCPF for considering the additional financing last year and that extended the Capacity Building Program on REDD+. This will provide an opportunity for scaling-up our innovative capacity building initiatives in our own communities and territories; with a focus on continuing and strengthening our sustainable traditional knowledge and livelihoods in managing forests and diverse ecosystems as our contribution to the emission reductions and in combatting climate change. We jointly celebrate this transformative partnership in this 10th year anniversary of the FCPF, and of REDD+.

We appreciate the inclusion of additional budget in the unallocated funds of the FCPF to enhance the work of IPs and CSOs. We would like to explore further possibilities of engaging with the FCPF and other mechanisms on the operational modalities and collaboration in the implementation of these additional resources.

We also take this opportunity to report to the PC/PA that the FCPF regional capacity building program for IPs and CSOs in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean had successfully convened our regional knowledge exchange workshops, sharing the progress, achievements and lessons learned for the past year. This was attended by WB-FCPF FMT teams, representatives from REDD+ focal units of governments, UN agencies, CSOs and Indigenous Peoples. One important output of this CBP in Asia-Pacific is a research report showing the importance of the recognition and enhancing of indigenous peoples' customary tenure systems in ensuring benefits for IPs/LCs; and in contributing to the success of any climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives such as REDD+. We hope this will also serve as a material in further improving on national/subnational policies in relation to ensuring the recognition and implementation of land tenure rights, traditional knowledge and the customary management systems of forest dependent IPs and local communities. In francophone Africa, the support from the Capacity Building Program has led to a dedicated capacity building initiative to REPALEAC, and finalization of REPALEAC Strategic Framework, which lays a foundation for engaging with IPs in the Congo Basin focusing on the key priorities.

Looking into the future, we would like to ask the PC/PA to specifically explore and make recommendations on the sustainability of the Capacity Building Program of IPs and CSOs, and the gender program, through the support of the Carbon Fund.

We hail progress being made by some countries in practically engaging IPs and including them as real partners in the implementation of National REDD+ Strategies, putting in place some changes in relevant policies and laws. We encourage further REDD+ countries to continue ensuring inclusivity and continue with this transformative partnership with IPs and local communities based on mutual respect, and recognition of the significant contributions of IPs in the more sustainable management of forests and natural resources. We are not just stakeholders, we are shareholders, and custodians of the most preserved world forests and natural resources.

We, the Indigenous peoples in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, further recommend to both the Participants Committee and Participants Assembly to pass a resolution on the need to mobilize resources for setting up specific emission reduction programs to be implemented by Indigenous peoples within our territories; with clear recognition of policies and programs on land tenure rights and ensuring benefits for indigenous peoples, as we continue to collectively address the drivers of deforestation and environmental degradation. This program will also contribute to the social and economic development initiatives of indigenous peoples' within their lands, territories and resources.

Finally, we also want to emphasize the importance of integrating these REDD+ initiatives with the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.