

## **VIEWS OF BRAZIL ON THE ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PLATFORM REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 135 OF 1/CP.21**

Brazil welcomes the opportunity to submit views on the purpose, content and structure of the local communities and indigenous people's platform referred to in paragraph 135 of Decision 1/CP.21, with the aim of informing the multi-stakeholder dialogue to be held in conjunction with the 46th session of the subsidiary bodies.

### **THE BRAZILIAN CONTEXT**

2. The Federal Constitution of Brazil recognizes indigenous peoples' social organization, customs, languages, beliefs and traditions, and their rights over lands they traditionally occupy, guaranteeing them permanent possession and exclusive use of natural resources in their territories. It also guarantees to the reminiscent Afro-descended population living in *quilombos* communities the lasting possession of the occupied lands. Currently, the number of indigenous people in Brazil is over 817,000. Furthermore, other legal instruments such as the National Policy for the Sustainable Development of the Traditional Communities and Peoples and the National Policy for the Territorial and Environmental Management of Indigenous Lands are important legal frameworks for the promotion of sustainable development and the protection and conservation of renewable resources in the lands occupied by indigenous and traditional peoples. Those policies emphasize the respect and valorization of their identity and sociocultural autonomy. By contributing to the management of those territories, those policies also contribute to the mitigation and adaptation to climate change as well as to the sustainable livelihoods of indigenous people and the traditional communities in Brazil.

3. According to Brazil's National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change, the basis for discussion of strategies for adaptation to climate change, as it affects indigenous peoples, must be based on the recognition and integral protection and promotion of their rights enshrined in law. These encompass an understanding of the multiple forms of sociocultural and environmental vulnerabilities to which they are subject; visibility of contributions of their traditional knowledge and practices; fostering of intercultural and cross-scientific dialogues; adequate training, information, participation and consultation processes for indigenous peoples; and coordination, liaison and synergy among public policies for addressing climate change and support for territorial and environmental management of indigenous lands.

### **PURPOSE OF THE PLATFORM**

4. According to paragraph 135 of 1/CP.21, the platform was established "for the exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices". Brazil is of the view that, in order to achieve those objectives, the platform should be designed **for** and **by** indigenous peoples and local communities. We underline the importance of an effective engagement of those stakeholders, in addition to Parties, in the shaping and functioning of the platform.

5. For Brazil, the platform provides an additional, innovative space for indigenous peoples and local communities to interact, strengthening their dialogue around common objectives and ensuring that their contribution to mitigation and adaptation action is duly recognized and strengthened over time, contributing to the enhancement of their ways of life and the recognition of their rights.

6. In Brazil's view, the platform should serve the following purposes:

- provide for a tailor-made source of information on climate change science and data, as well as on UNFCCC processes, in accessible language, in order to continuously build the capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities, aiming for their active engagement in the climate change debate;
- strengthen and facilitate the promotion and integration of traditional knowledge and practices, where appropriate, into mitigation and adaptation action and sustainable development policies;
- support national efforts to respect, promote and consider traditional knowledge while implementing nationally determined contributions and other relevant policies, such as REDD+ National Strategies and National Adaptation Plans;

## **CONTENT OF THE PLATFORM**

7. Taking into account the incremental and participatory approach to developing the platform, terms of reference and guidelines for its operationalization could be developed as an outcome of this agenda item during SBSTA-47, building on the views expressed at the multi-stakeholder dialogue.

8. Brazil proposes the following contents for the platform, to be considered during the multi-stakeholder dialogue and beyond:

- A thematic agenda of work, with annual or biennial priorities to be agreed in advance. This agenda would be implemented with the support of platform participants (see below) and profiled during regular sessions of the COP or other events, such as those of Global Climate Action Agenda or the NAP Expo, to collect inputs from and inform those events.
- A roster of entities and networks working on the elements listed in paragraph 135 (knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts), at national, regional and international levels;
- A hub of relevant publications and reports on policy structures that relate to, integrate and encourage indigenous peoples and local communities' participation in actions to address and respond to climate change and promote sustainable development and environmental management of indigenous and local communities lands;
- Case studies on good practices of climate change mitigation and adaptation action, by local communities and indigenous peoples, to be provided while respecting their right to free, prior and informed consent;

- Information on available sources of funding for indigenous peoples' and local communities' organizations in support to their mitigation and adaptation priorities.
- Promotion of webinars and exchanges to build capacity and empower indigenous peoples and local communities on climate change issues.

## **STRUCTURE OF THE PLATFORM**

9. Brazil envisages an easy to access, interactive web-based platform that is open for Parties and accredited organizations that represent indigenous peoples and local communities and observer organizations. The specific content of the platform would be selected by an informal steering group, whose composition would be chosen amongst participants, with balanced representation between Parties and indigenous peoples and local communities, while also considering gender balance. In developing the content of the platform, the steering group should follow guidelines agreed by the COP.

10. It will be important to define the specific roles of platform participants and the secretariat, as well as how the platform will relate to and interact with existing arrangements under the Convention. It is Brazil's belief that the platform should constitute an important channel of contact for and source of information on issues related to indigenous peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC. To ensure a coordinated approach, platform participants should work closely together with existing bodies under the Convention, including – but not limited to – the Adaptation Committee and the Standing Committee on Finance.

11. The content and impact of the platform should be subject to regular reviews by the COP, with input from platform participants, for its continuous improvement.