



INTERNATIONAL
INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES'
FORUM ON
CLIMATE CHANGE

**Closing Plenary
Virtual SB 2021
June 17, 2021**

Greetings, I am Tunga Rai of the Rai Indigenous Nationality of Nepal. I am speaking on behalf of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change. In the interest of time, I will highlight key components of our statement with the longer one submitted online.

The most recent scientific reports indicate that the present level of ambition is far under what is necessary to keep the temperature rise to less than 1.5 degrees Centigrade. This must change now, with enhanced NDCs in advance of COP 26.

As Parties develop their positions, we call for the following:

The Paris Agreement recognizes the obligation to respect and promote human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, affirmed in the UN Declaration, when undertaking any climate actions, including the implementation of all articles of the Paris Agreement.

Of particular importance is Article 6. We appreciate the Parties who highlighted the importance of human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and call on all Parties to do the same.

The development and implementation of NDCs and NAPs must provide for the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, and, with our Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, the incorporation of our knowledge systems, science, and innovations.

Indigenous Peoples' loss and damage, both tangible and intangible, must be addressed. Our cultural, spiritual, and social losses equal or surpass our economic losses.

Long term climate finance must be additional to ODA.

Agro-ecology must be emphasized in the discussions on agriculture. Forests must be allowed to re-generate as the lungs of the Earth, and mono-culture plantations must be rejected.

The lack of interpretation throughout the virtual session, including during the in-session dialogue on the LCIPP focusing on Party engagement with Indigenous Peoples in national climate policy, was inexcusable. This problem must be remedied if a future virtual session will be held.

We look forward to an in-person COP26 in Glasgow but are deeply concerned about the disparity of Indigenous Peoples' access to COVID-19 vaccinations.

To close, we stress that all plans to address the changing climate should be based on an embrace of Indigenous philosophies. Only then will humanity find truly lasting climate solutions.

People power, Climate justice.