



ADVOCACY PAPER OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ON LOSS & DAMAGE

13th June 2023 | SB58 Bonn

The International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) reiterates that Indigenous Peoples hold vast amounts of distinct knowledge and science, which have created our unique economies and cultures of sustainability and resiliency. Climate change impacts are rooted in the legacy and continuation of colonial practices and the myth of “infinite growth”, causing direct losses and damages to our cultures, health, lifeways and overall well-being. We call on Parties to recognize these incalculable losses we have experienced and continue to experience, including those arising as a result from response measures, developments and fortress conservation efforts established on our lands and territories that perpetuate these colonial practices.

We are not only referencing the physical losses of our lands, waters, territories and resources, but also the cultural losses connected to those lands, waters, and territories that constitute our identity, languages, and our science. Our Indigenous knowledge systems need to be further recognized and enabled so that we can maintain resilience in the face of situations of, including but not limited to, evacuations, displacements and cultural and economic losses. All loss and damage mechanisms and measures will benefit from endorsing and empowering Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge, innovations and stewardship.

Therefore, we call upon Parties for the following:

- All loss and damage mechanisms and measures, including the loss and damage fund and the Santiago Network, must recognize, respect, promote, and safeguard the rights of Indigenous Peoples as included in the eleventh preambular paragraph of the Paris Agreement, and as reflected in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in all levels and at all stages.
- All loss and damage mechanisms and measures must ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in its decision-making processes, and provide equitable, direct, and simplified financial access for Indigenous Peoples
- All loss and damage mechanisms and measures must actively avert and seek to prevent loss and damage, including non-economic loss and damage, associated with the adverse effects of climate change, while also recognizing the unique impacts Indigenous Peoples face in all regions and must include provisions for rapid emergency response mechanisms.
- All loss and damage mechanisms and measures must provide financial assistance to ensure consistent, full and effective participation of IIPFCC representatives in key decision-making processes as it is critical to recognize Indigenous Peoples as rights holders and crucial contributors in climate action, beyond mere textual acknowledgements as observers.