

**Remarks by Indigenous Peoples Observers to the FCPF PC22 and PA9
Sept 29, 2016, Accra, Ghana**

Thank you Co-Chairs, for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples observers.

We would like to appreciate that for the past several years, our significant role as IP Observers in the PC/PA meetings and the Carbon Fund, (as well as, in other REDD+ mechanisms such as UNREDD and FIP), has been a continuing opportunity and definitely a cumulative learning process for us. We have requested these important spaces for IPs and have also maximized these to voice out our concerns and issues for your kind consideration, even as we sometimes seem to be repeating our important concerns and issues.

As country participants have reported in the past days, we can see progress in the REDD+ implementation, especially in giving importance for more meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples, women and CSO representatives in national REDD+ institutional arrangements such as technical working groups, resulting in enhancing and strengthening accountabilities within the REDD+ structures. There is also progress in addressing the safeguards, establishing and strengthening of grievance redress mechanisms, while putting in place policy reforms that ensure co-benefits for climate, biodiversity and livelihoods.

As also reported, IPs had long negotiated for the allocation of dedicated fund support for the Capacity Building Programs for IPs in various REDD+ and climate mechanisms; which later included Southern CSOs and LCs. Again, we express our acknowledgement especially to the donors, the continuing support of the FMT, as well as, the openness and collaboration with the various ministries in the countries.

The African regional intermediaries for the CBP reported their experience on these CBP related processes, which include the signing of the Grant Agreement, as well as, the CBP Inception Workshop with IP/SCSO sub-grantees that happened just before this PC/PA meeting here in Ghana. This CBP is set to roll out national level activities in 11 of the 18 Participating Countries of the FCPF in the next months within the region.

Again, we reiterate that this CBP support is very helpful as we move forward to realize more significant contributions that this will provide in enhancing our limited capacities at various levels. While we agree with the evaluation that the process of implementation was quite delayed due to compliance with delivery partner requirements, and that the CBP fund support is quite limited to cover extensive needs of IPs and CSOs, we consider this as another learning process for us on how we will successfully work together to expedite the process of implementation and again to reiterate our request for additional CBP funds for the upcoming period beyond 2017. We are hopeful that this will provide an additional impact on strengthening our

capacities and in sustaining our meaningful participation in the implementation of REDD+ especially at subnational and national levels. In addition, it is also significant to mention that we had jointly organized regional and global workshops of IPs and LCs to share experiences and knowledge on REDD+ implementation, in coordination with the FMT.

We are also hopeful that the ministries will continue to be inclusive and transparent in future processes, and that the significant stakeholders will continue to be more actively engaged and informed on REDD+ developments in the countries for a more substantial contribution and effective participation of IPs, SCSOs and LCs from subnational, national to global levels.

We believe these are all important especially for Indigenous Peoples who are the peoples of the lands, forests and natural resources and who have long been discriminated against. Yet, we will surely and sincerely continue in a sustainable way to manage and utilize these resources, as a matter of our lifeways and as an assertion for the respect and recognition of our Indigenous Peoples' rights, our well-being and very survival. As we speak here, so many Indigenous Peoples and communities still continue to be threatened, harassed and displaced due to other development plans and investments impacting on our lands and territories, without free, prior and informed consent, and without respecting our rights and customary knowledge and governance systems, which are recognized by international human rights standards and conventions.

Finally, while we are still faced with difficulties and challenges, may we again reiterate additional recommendations which we have shared in the past. We are looking forward for:

1. Improved partnerships with IPs/SCOs/LCs that is more inclusive, with shared ownership and with meaningful participation in the implementation of the REDD+ processes at country and community levels;
2. Enhanced support to strengthen traditional and alternative livelihoods, innovations and technologies that will provide concrete benefits particularly for forest dependent indigenous peoples and local communities;
3. More explicit policy reforms and guidelines that will further strengthen the respect, protection and fulfillment of IP rights, forest and land tenure, the implementation of safeguards, grievance redress mechanisms, and co-benefits;
4. Strategic harmonization at country level among relevant ministries, multilateral and bilateral agencies, working on REDD+ and related processes. This will contribute more intensely to the overarching goals of poverty alleviation and the achievement of the sustainable development goals, especially for the poorer sectors in the REDD+ countries.

Thank you again, Co-Chairs, the members of the Participants Committee and Participants Assembly, FMT and all observers.