

# **PROPOSAL FOR A GLOBAL MEETING OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ON FCPF**

**Presented by Joan Carling**

**Ninth Meeting of the FCPF Participants Committee**

**Oslo, Norway- June 20-22,2011**

**The REDD+ has serious implications to indigenous peoples. Millions of indigenous peoples live and rely on their forest resources not only for their livelihoods but also for their social and cultural distinction and collective wellbeing. Indigenous peoples have long been the custodians of forests over centuries. This has generated invaluable traditional knowledge, sustainable livelihoods that ensure their food security. Moreover, the collective forest management systems of indigenous peoples have resulted to the conservation of forest resources, ecological balance, and generated multiple values of forest including its spiritual and religious roles in the wellbeing of indigenous peoples. These central role and contributions of indigenous peoples as well as their wellbeing are put at risks and will do injustice to indigenous peoples if REDD+ does not guarantee in action protection of our rights especially to our forest, sustainable livelihoods, forest governance systems, traditional knowledge and to equitable benefit sharing.**

**We fully acknowledge the tremendous tasks and differentiated obligations of states to address the global climate crisis. REDD+ is one of the identified mitigation measures that needs the full cooperation and solidarity of all stakeholders. Indigenous peoples are committed to contribute to the common effort to conserve the forest in partnership with government and others. The broader framework of such partnership shall be based on protecting and enhancing the multiple values of forest and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities; and resulting to an overall net reduction of carbon emission.**

**However, global negotiations and funding arrangements for REDD+ have been taking place with minimum participation of indigenous peoples. At the same time, local and national planning and implementation of the REDD+ readiness phase in several countries (not all) is taking place of which indigenous peoples are almost made invisible. This is causing confusion, conflicts, high expectations and insecurity among indigenous peoples due to lack of information understood by indigenous communities, as well as lack of interaction and engagement by states and other key actors with indigenous peoples.**

**Inspite of this, indigenous peoples are finding ways and means to engage and participate in processes relating to REDD+. We feel the urgent need to be heard and have a seat at the table as RIGHTS-HOLDERS. We acknowledge that a number of states have started their constructive engagements with indigenous peoples and some good practices are emerging.**

**In relation to FCPF as one of the main channels for REDD+ funding, indigenous peoples representatives have been allowed to participate in FCPF meetings as observer. We also acknowledge the efforts of the FMT to engage with indigenous peoples representatives and we encourage them to enhance this. We thereby appreciate the recommendation in the FCPF evaluation to enhance the engagement of FCPF with civil society organizations and indigenous peoples.**

**Nevertheless, there has been no forum or avenue for indigenous peoples as a distinct group to have a thorough discussion and deliberations with FCPF in relation to the policies, programmes, mechanisms and processes of FCPF. Several initiatives of FCPF such as the draft Guidelines for Stakeholders Engagement on the REDD+ Readiness Phase, the Multiple-Delivery Partnership, and the Carbon Fund are taking place without the benefit of consultations and collective inputs from indigenous peoples.**

**On the other hand, serious concerns of indigenous peoples relating to FCPF policies and guidelines remain un-answered or not responded to adequately. These concerns are related to safeguard standards and implementation, forest governance, and mechanisms for our full and effective participation. While parties and other key actors including the FCPF have declared their support to the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in REDD+, the establishment of mechanisms for such as**

well as its institutionalization is not treated as urgent and critical. Furthermore, full and effective participation of indigenous peoples also requires logistical and technical support and under certain conditions based on transparency, mutual respect and good faith engagements.

Along this line, the proposal for the Global Meeting of Indigenous Peoples on FCPF was proposed. The main objectives of this Meeting were already presented earlier. Another objective was added based on further inputs from indigenous leaders as objectives no. 5. -- To reach an agreement on future mechanisms, processes and funding for the effective engagement of indigenous peoples in FCPF processes.

For this Meeting, there shall be 50 indigenous peoples representatives from proposed FCPF countries with 20 participants from Central and South America, 15 from Africa, 10 from Asia and 5 from the Pacific Region. We also expect the active participation of indigenous experts in UN bodies and mechanisms, and from representatives of FCPF PC, FMT, MDBs, and UN-REDD for constructive discussions and actions to our concerns. We propose this Global Meeting to take place in September this year, and to be hosted by indigenous organizations in Panama.

We believe this global meeting will result to better understanding of FCPC matters; to the views, concerns and rights of indigenous peoples and to mechanisms for the effective engagement of FCPF with indigenous peoples as central actors for the success of REDD+.

We thereby hope for a positive response from the PC to our request and we extend our full cooperation for the preparation and conduct of this Meeting.

Thank you.