

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 16th Session, 24 April- 5 May 2017
Item 12- Future Work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues

Intervention by the International Indian Treaty Council presented by: Janene Yazzie

Thank you Madame Chair. IITC has consistently advocated for the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in the development and implementation of strategies on all levels for the protection, promotion and strengthening of traditional knowledge to address climate change. We reaffirm the Southwest Tribal Nations Resolution adopted in Shiprock, New Mexico in 2015, *“calling upon our tribal governments, the United States, other countries and the UN to implement effective solutions and responses to climate change through strong actions that respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, protect our food sovereignty and reduce greenhouse gasses by moving away from fossil fuel extraction, production and use...”*.

IITC is a member of the Global Steering Committee for the International Indigenous Peoples’ Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC). As such, we worked for and continue to support the implementation of paragraph 135 of the Paris agreement, with the full participation of Indigenous Peoples, calling for the establishment of a new Indigenous Peoples Platform for the Protection and Exchange of Traditional Knowledge in the context of climate change mitigation. We reiterate our support for the recommendations on the Purpose, Content and Structure for the new Platform submitted by the IIPFCC for the consultations to be held in Bonn, Germany May 16th and 17th.

The full participation of Indigenous Peoples must be upheld in this process, as well as their *“right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions”* as affirmed in Article 31 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We thank the Permanent Forum Secretariat for including the Tecpan Declaration, adopted on March 9, 2017 at the 3rd International Indigenous Peoples Corn Conference in Guatemala, as a Conference Room Paper for this session [E/C.19/2017/CRP.1]. The traditional practitioners, food producers and knowledge holders who participated stated that *“the new Platform for Protection and Exchange of Traditional Knowledge must be developed in a manner which respects our knowledge and upholds our rights, including Free, Prior and Informed Consent, full and effective participation and Self-Determination. We must also be assured that our knowledge will not be commercialized, and that new development models based on sustainable energy are implemented as the basis for sharing or exchanging our traditional seeds, practices and knowledge to help the world survive the impacts of climate change. We request to be informed of these developments so that we can decide if and how we will participate as knowledge and rights holders”*.

We recommend that the Permanent Forum invite the Global Steering Committee for the IIPFCC to report at the 17th session on the progress that has been made for the establishment of the new Traditional Knowledge Exchange Platform.

We further recommend that the Permanent Forum formally engage in the UNFCCC process to assist in ensuring the implementation of the preamble of the Paris Agreement recognizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples in all Climate Change actions. Thank you Madam Chair.