

ACCRA CAUCUS ON FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE¹

Civil Society Strategy Meeting

Poznan, Poland

November 30 - December 1, 2008

Accra Caucus Statement for COP 14*

Preamble

A diverse group of civil society and Indigenous Peoples organizations (the Accra Caucus on Forests and Climate Change) was formed in Accra, Ghana on 18 August 2008, to discuss issues concerning Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD)². A summary of discussions about the main concerns was presented in Accra to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to a number of Parties. Following the Accra meeting, some members of the same group and new organizations met in Poznan, Poland, to discuss and review the post-Accra REDD issues. The following highlights the Caucus principles and the approach to financing REDD considered crucial for REDD negotiations and subsequent agreements by Parties.

Principles

Parties **MUST** ensure that the following principles are secured in any REDD process and agreement:

1. Recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to lands, territories and resources, and their traditional uses of the forest. Implementation of REDD **must** not lead to displacement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities from their territories and lands.
2. Parties willing to participate in REDD **must** be required to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework, as well as to sign and ratify other relevant international instruments (ILO³ Convention 169, CBD⁴, Human Rights Convention etc).
3. Indigenous Peoples and local communities should be the primary and direct beneficiaries of financing mechanisms for REDD where their lands, territories and resources are concerned.
4. Parties **must** agree on minimum standards for benefit-sharing mechanisms.
5. Indigenous Peoples and local communities should benefit from their conservation efforts and revenues from REDD should be equitably shared between and within communities, especially among vulnerable groups and women.
6. Civil society, Indigenous Peoples and local communities **must** be involved at all stages of decision-making about REDD, from the design to the implementation. Implementation of REDD, at both national and project levels, should obtain free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) from Indigenous Peoples and local communities if using their territories and provide enabling environments for their meaningful participation at all levels.
7. REDD **must** improve forest governance.
8. Corporations that contribute to deforestation and forest degradation should not benefit from REDD mechanisms. REDD mechanisms **must not** provide opportunities for big businesses to exploit rainforest nations that participate in REDD schemes.
9. REDD **must not** be used as a legal excuse for industrialized countries to continue polluting. It

¹ *The Accra Caucus on Forest and Climate Change is a group of civil society, Indigenous Peoples and local community organizations and networks, who are concerned with rights, equity and justice in REDD. The Caucus remains open to organizations and groups sharing its fundamental principles as set out in Accra, August 2008.*

² *Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation.*

³ *International Labor Organization.*

⁴ *Convention on BioDiversity.*

must be accompanied by deeper commitments from industrialized countries to reduce their own emissions.

10. Parties **must** not see forests as a platform for mitigation only, but as a critical factor in the world's adaptation to climate change.

Financing approach

- The Accra Caucus members believe strongly that offset market-based approaches to financing REDD will not really contribute to the overall reduction of carbon emissions.
- We also believe that a market-based approach will mostly benefit investors, brokers and private corporations, and not indigenous people and forest dependent communities.
- REDD finance **must** be managed in a transparent and participatory manner by all stakeholders including representatives from local communities, Indigenous Peoples and civil society organizations.
- The Caucus members support the creation of a global fund for forests and climate as a funding mechanism for REDD.
- The funds for REDD initiatives **must** be administered transparently at the national and local levels by multi-stakeholders bodies and equitably distributed.

* *The present statement represent the views of the organizations and networks listed below :*

<i>n°</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Country</i>
1	<i>African Network for a Climate Community (ANCC/WCA)</i>	<i>West & Central Africa</i>
2	<i>Papua NGOs Cooperation Forum</i>	<i>Indonesia</i>
3	<i>Asociacion Indidena y Campesina de Agroforesteria Comunitaria (ACICAFOC)</i>	<i>Centro America</i>
4	<i>Asociacion para el Desarrollo de la Mosquitia (MOPAWI)</i>	<i>Honduras</i>
5	<i>Association pour le Développement des Baka (ADEBAKA)</i>	<i>Cameroon</i>
6	<i>Centre for Environment and Development (CED)</i>	<i>Cameroon</i>
7	<i>Centro Alexander von Humboldt</i>	<i>Nicaragua</i>
8	<i>Civic Response</i>	<i>Ghana</i>
9	<i>Concertación regional para la gestión de riesgo (CRGR)</i>	<i>Central America</i>
10	<i>Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)</i>	<i>Nepal</i>
11	<i>Vietnam National Working Group on Climate Change (VNNWGCC)</i>	<i>Vietnam</i>
12	<i>Forêts et Développement Rural (FODER)</i>	<i>Cameroon</i>
13	<i>Indonesian CSO Forum on Climate Change</i>	<i>Indonesia</i>
14	<i>Instituto para el Desarrollo y la Democracia (IPADE)</i>	<i>Nicaragua</i>
15	<i>Instituto socioambiental (ISA)</i>	<i>Brazil</i>
16	<i>National Forum for Advocacy Nepal (NAFAN)</i>	<i>Nepal</i>
17	<i>Observatoire Congolais des Droits de l'Homme (OCDH)</i>	<i>Republic of Congo</i>
18	<i>Organisation Concertée des Ecologistes et Amis de la Nature (OCEAN)</i>	<i>DRC</i>
19	<i>Perkumpulan HuMa Jakarta</i>	<i>Indonesia</i>
20	<i>Sobrevivencia</i>	<i>Paraguay</i>
21	<i>The Papua New Guinea Ecoforestry Forum</i>	<i>Papua New Guinea</i>
22	<i>The River Fondation</i>	<i>Nicaragua</i>
23	<i>The Sustainability Watch Network</i>	<i>Central America</i>
24	<i>Union pour l'Emancipation de la Femme Autochtone (UEFA)</i>	<i>DRC</i>
25	<i>Asociacion de Organismos No Gubernamentales de Honduras (ASONOG)</i>	<i>Honduras</i>
26	<i>Amazon Institute for Environmental Research (IPAM)</i>	<i>Brazil</i>