

Displaced by Climate Change

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Alaska Native Science Commission

Bringing together research & science

in partnership with the Native community

www.nativescience.org

www.nativeknowledge.org

April 2009
International Chair, ICC



North America



Arctic Russia



Shishmaref, Alaska



Lensk, Siberia



Palau, Pacific Ocean



Burma



Haiti



Norway



Peru



Africa



Amazon



Alaska



Shishmaref - Seychelles



IPCCSD – Indigenous Peoples' Global Network on Climate Change and Sustainable Development

- Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit on Climate Change
- Anchorage Declaration 2009
- http://www.unutki.org/downloads/File/Publications/UNU_2009_Climate_Change_Summit_Report.pdf
- Secretariat – Philippines



Summit Report to COP-15, UNFCCC Copenhagen Dec 2009

- International Steering Committee
- 7 UN Regions
 - Arctic
 - Latin America
 - Pacific
 - Caribbean
 - Asia
 - Africa
 - North America
- 2+ years planning
- 400+ delegates (youth & Elders) from 80+ countries
- 1.2 million dollars
- 13 Foundation Sponsors
- 9 Countries/Governments and Agencies
- 5 Core Staff ++++

Statement of H.E. Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, President of the United Nations General Assembly to the Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit on Climate Change



- Climate change poses threats and dangers to the survival of Indigenous communities worldwide, even though they contribute the least to greenhouse emissions. In fact, Indigenous Peoples are vital to the many ecosystems in their lands and territories and help enhance the resilience of these ecosystems. In addition, Indigenous Peoples interpret and react to the impacts of climate change in creative ways, drawing on traditional knowledge and other technologies to find solutions that society at large can replicate to counter pending changes.

Summit Agenda Highlights

- Daily Blessings From Each Region
- Daily Addresses from Elders & Youth
- Keynote Addresses
- Regional Reports from Each Region
 - Key messages, adaptation strategies, recommendation for action
- Dialogue with UN Agencies, NGOs, Foundations, Private Sector
- International Film Festival
- Anchorage Declaration
- Thematic Sessions
 - Health, Wellbeing and Food Security
 - Ways of Knowing: Traditional Knowledge, Contemporary Knowledge and Decision Making
 - Environmental Stewardship: Natural Resources Ownership and Management
 - Energy Generation and Use in Traditional Territories of Indigenous peoples

Key Messages

- Arctic – increased temperatures, loss of sea ice, erosion, open waters, health impacts, increased development
- Latin America – importance of TK, sustainable communities, developed/developing countries, education, capacity development
- Pacific – loss of coastal land, erosion, tidal surges, increase in #/severity of cyclones, destruction of coral reefs, loss of food sources

- Asia – droughts, floods, typhoons and cyclones, food/water security, destruction of traditional livelihoods, cultures
- Africa – food insecurity, displacement, famine, drought, floods, loss of livelihoods, loss of cultural land, scarcity of water
- Caribbean – extreme weather, flash floods, tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes, erosion, coral bleaching, landslides, loss of life/property
- North America – food security/sovereignty, temperature increases, rising sea level, unpredictable weather, floods, droughts, extreme weather, changes in animals/fish

Recurring Themes From All Regions

- **Indigenous peoples have contributed the least to climate change** and already practice low carbon life styles.
- Indigenous peoples are the **most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change** because they live in the areas most affected by climate change and are usually the most socio-economically disadvantaged.
- Indigenous peoples have an **important role to play** in addressing climate change through their knowledge, experience and rights over land and development. This contribution has been largely ignored.
- More effort needs to be made to **publicize and document** the impacts of climate change on indigenous peoples and local **mitigation and adaptation measures** taken by them.
- Indigenous peoples need to be **fully and effectively involved** in all measures to understand climate change, to reduce or mitigate climate change and adapt to the impacts of climate change. In particular we need to:
- Promote the **participation of indigenous youth** in all processes.
- Promote and **implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)** at all levels.
- **Enhance the capacities** of indigenous peoples to mitigate and adapt to climate change and to **implement their self-determined development**.
- Fully and effectively engage in the UNFCCC with the immediate objective of ensuring input into the Copenhagen agreements.

The Anchorage Declaration

24 April 2009

- From 20-24 April, 2009, Indigenous representatives from the Arctic, North America, Asia, Pacific, Latin America, Africa, Caribbean and Russia met in Anchorage, Alaska for the Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit on Climate Change. We thank the Ahtna and the Dena'ina Athabascan Peoples in whose lands we gathered.
- **We express our solidarity** as Indigenous Peoples living in areas that are the most vulnerable to the impacts and root causes of climate change. We reaffirm the **unbreakable and sacred connection** between land, air, water, oceans, forests, sea ice, plants, animals and our human communities as the material and spiritual basis for our existence.
- We are deeply alarmed by the accelerating **climate devastation** brought about by unsustainable development. We are experiencing profound and disproportionate **adverse impacts** on our cultures, human and environmental health, human rights, well-being, traditional livelihoods, food systems and food sovereignty, local infrastructure, economic viability, and our very **survival as Indigenous Peoples**.

- **Mother Earth is no longer in a period of climate change, but in climate crisis.** We therefore insist on an immediate end to the destruction and desecration of the elements of life.
- Through our knowledge, spirituality, sciences, practices, experiences and relationships with our traditional lands, territories, waters, air, forests, oceans, sea ice, other natural resources and all life, **Indigenous Peoples have a vital role in defending and healing Mother Earth.** The future of Indigenous Peoples lies in the **wisdom of our elders**, the restoration of the sacred position of women, the youth of today and in the generations of tomorrow.
- We uphold that the inherent and fundamental human rights and status of Indigenous Peoples, affirmed in the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** (UNDRIP), must be fully recognized and respected in all decision-making processes and activities related to climate change. This includes our rights to our lands, territories, environment and natural resources as contained in Articles 25–30 of the UNDRIP. When specific programs and projects affect our lands, territories, environment and natural resources, the right of Self Determination of Indigenous Peoples must be recognized and respected, emphasizing our **right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent**, including the right to say “no”. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreements and principles must reflect the spirit and the minimum standards contained in UNDRIP.

The Anchorage Declaration Main Points

- The Anchorage Declaration is the main political message of the Summit. Adopted by consensus it represents the common position of all indigenous participants at the Summit. The Declaration:
 - **Supports a binding emissions reduction target for developed countries (“Annex 1”) of at least 45% below 1990 levels by 2020 and at least 95% by 2050;**
 - **Calls on the UNFCCC to establish formal structures and mechanisms for and with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples;**
 - **Calls on all Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) initiatives to secure the recognition and implementation of the human rights of indigenous peoples;**
 - **Challenges states to abandon false solutions to climate change that negatively impact indigenous peoples;**
 - **Calls on states to recognize, respect and implement the fundamental human rights of indigenous peoples; and**
 - **Encourages indigenous communities to exchange information.**

UNFCCC – COP15

Copenhagen, Denmark



45,000 delegates – 15,000 capacity



Copenhagen Accord

- Disappointing – IP lost ground
- Developed vs. developing countries
- Political not legal agreement
- No Major commitments to reduce GHG
- Agreement to limit global mean temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius
- Financial commitments by developed countries, with some funding beginning in 2010, a commitment for \$100B by 2020
- Commitments to cut GHG emissions fall below what scientific research say is needed and there is work to do to make the accord into a binding agreement by the next COP in Mexico City

Future – For All Indigenous Peoples'



- International Indigenous Coalition on Climate Change
- Working with UN and organizations
- Working within our Communities and Regions
- Working for Future Generations