

Position Paper of Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN)
on
Climate Change and Reducing Emission from Forest Deforestation and
Degradation (REDD)

Paying attention to the ratification of Indigenous Tribal Peoples Convention (ILO C 169) and adoption of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) by the government of Nepal,

Realizing the Anchorage Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples Global Summit on Climate Change held in Anchorage Alaska in the United States of America,

Considering the fact that we the indigenous peoples are the communities who have direct symbiotic relations with the nature,

Keeping in mind the demands and claims of indigenous peoples' rights to self-determination, prerogative rights over natural resources and ownership and control over their lands that resulted from indigenous peoples' continuous struggle from the past,

Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) declares the following points as a minimal concept of indigenous peoples of Nepal with regard to Climate Change and REDD:

1. While formulating any policies, plans and programs related to climate change and REDD, the state should provide constitutional, legal and administrative guarantee the ownership and control of indigenous peoples over their water, lands, forests and mineral resources that have been ensured by the ILO C. 169 and UNDRIP
2. The state should respect and recognize indigenous peoples' rights to self-determination while formulating any policies and implementing any plans and programs related to the climate change and REDD.
3. The state should ensure indigenous peoples rights of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) while formulating and implementing any policies, plans and programs related to the climate change and REDD.
4. The state should ensure constitutional and legal recognition to symbiotic relations of indigenous peoples with their ancestral land, forest, water and other natural resources and their traditional knowledge, skills, customs, customary legal systems while formulating any policies, plans, and programs related to climate change and REDD and implementing, monitoring and evaluating them.
5. The state should ascertain the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples while formulating any policies, plans and programs and implementing, monitoring and evaluating them.

6. The state should recognize the traditional forest management systems of indigenous peoples while making any policies, plans, and programs with an objective to control deforestation and degradation as well as to protect and manage forest resources.
7. Since REDD is related to the carbon trading for the mitigation and adaptation of the climate change, rights over any kinds of decision either to agree or disagree over the carbon trading of the forest should go to the indigenous peoples.
8. The state should protect and promote the traditional knowledge and skills based on the technology of indigenous peoples by ensuring their patent rights on it while formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating any policies, plans and programs related to climate change and REDD.
9. Since indigenous peoples are the first victims of the climate change over their traditional sustainable livelihoods, health care system, the state should provide special arrangement to address the impacts as per their traditions.
10. The state should make special measures to control the climate change and REDD led migration's negative effects on identity and ways of life of indigenous peoples.
11. The state should ensure the effective participation of indigenous women and children in the formulation of any policies, plans and programs and their implementation, monitoring and evaluation related to climate change and REDD by recognizing that women and children who are affected the most.
12. The state should immediately adopt special measures to protect the peoples of Mountains, Hills and Tarai from the flooding, landslides and drought caused by the climate change.
13. The state should identify vulnerable indigenous communities and declare them as “the first vulnerable communities” caused by climate change. In order to minimize the effects of climate change, the state should formulate special alternative programs and implement to address them.
14. Including Mount Everest the highest peak in the world, the range of mountains is in the state of melting, lakes are bursting, and rivers are drying due to the effect of climate change, we the Indigenous Peoples of Nepal would like to draw the attention of the International communities of the fact that the foremost impacts caused by these disasters are the indigenous peoples in Nepal.

END