

## **SUBMISSION BY SPAIN AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

Madrid, 13 November 2023

**Subject: To the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) on the review of the FWG to be held in 2024.**

The EU welcomes the opportunity to share its reflections on the implementation of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform's (LCIPP) second work plan from 2022 to 2024, and its suggestions on the review of the Facilitative Working Group (FGW) to be held in 2024.

### **1. Overview on the work under the LCIPP and its FWG**

Indigenous Peoples are in a unique position to lead transformative change and restore harmony with nature and all life forms. The reason for this being their knowledge systems and holistic understanding of interlinkages between nature and culture and their ways of living reciprocally with their lands, territories, and resources.

The LCIPP has been the central space to improve the exchange with local communities and indigenous peoples in the UNFCCC process. Since its establishment in 2015 and its operationalization in 2018, the LCIPP has provided opportunities for exchanging knowledge and best-practices both virtually and in-person and building capacity for Parties to meaningfully engage with local communities and Indigenous Peoples, as well as bringing local and traditional knowledge to the international level.

The FWG was established by Decision 2/CP.24 in 2018 incl. its composition and its mandates, further operationalizing the LCIPP and facilitating the implementation of its functions, as defined in 2/CP.23, para. 6: knowledge, capacity for engagement, climate change policies and actions.

Based on its contributions, bringing to life and shape the LCIPP's profile also outside the UNFCCC process in its first two years, Parties decided to continue the FWG's mandate in Decision 16/CP.26 and welcomed its second work plan.

The EU expresses its appreciation for the FWG and its continuous work to further operationalize the LCIPP under its second work plan. It drew from the experiences and challenges from the implementation of the first work plan, which included the extremely difficult time during the COVID-19 pandemic, and built an ambitious program to strengthen all three functions of the LCIPP, knowledge exchange, building capacity for engagement and integration in climate change policies and actions.

Until the time of this submission (November 2023), the first two years of the current work plan have brought engaging multi-stakeholder dialogues and meetings of knowledge holders during the UNFCCC COP26 and COP27, as well as one biregional and two regional gatherings, several training workshops, Youth exchanges and dialogues (incl. on Indigenous curricula). The FWG and its members have been key in both the design and implementation of the activities, supported by the UNFCCC Secretariat, and thus enabling and facilitating the functions of the LCIPP.

The FWG still holds a unique position in the UNFCCC process, bringing together both Indigenous Peoples representatives as well as Party representatives to decide together on the way forward. In the past years, the FWG continued to implement its mandate under able leadership, and with a smooth transition between the different terms of members, alternate members, and chairs.

We appreciate the structured approach of the FWG in addressing the activities of the work plan with two leads to each activity who develop the concept and present progress throughout the implementation. The FWG also worked out its own informal working arrangements, which have worked well in the past year and contributed to clarifying the internal procedures. Consensus remains an important characteristic of the FWG and its members have proven to be very capable of bringing forward the work of the platform in that working mode.

## **2. Suggestions for further work by the FWG**

We appreciate the current mode of work and suggest renewing the mandate of the FWG at COP29 (2024) for the next three years, with the next review at COP32 (2027).

With regards to the internal decision-making, we also suggest continuing in the current working mode (consensus) which has proven to be effective and inclusive of all views expressed in the group.

Regarding the composition of the FWG, Decision 16/CP.26, para. 12, also aims to address the involvement of local communities in the FWG with the review in 2024.

Local communities are a part of the LCIPP's original mandate in para. 135 of 1/CP.21 and several local communities have raised their voice in the past years at meetings of the FWG and under the LCIPP. As is the mandate of the Platform, Local Communities are and will continue to be invited to take part in all activities under the Platform.

We acknowledge however, that on the UNFCCC level there is still no global or regional representation of local communities that would cover all regions. This representation would be key to ensure their voices to be channeled and heard in a revised FWG. The EU stands ready to further explore the issue.