

Draft Ethics Protocol  
Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

**I. Executive Summary**

*Summary*

DRAFT

Contents	<i>Page</i>
Section 1: Embodying the LCIPP’s Guiding Principles .....	XX
Section 2: Supporting a rights-based approach for Indigenous Peoples .....	XX
Section 3: Supporting a rights-based approach for local communities .....	XX
Section 4: Recalling the LCIPP’s existing safeguards .....	XX
Section 5: Recognizing the importance of cultural protocols .....	XX
Section 6: Ensuring ethical engagement across the Platform .....	XX
Section 7: Applying the Draft Ethics Protocol .....	XX
 Annexes	
Annex I: Materials submitted by Indigenous Peoples .....	XX
Annex II: Materials submitted by local communities .....	XX
Annex III: Materials from the 2026 Ethics Workshops .....	XX
Annex IV: Beyond the LCIPP .....	XX

DRAFT

## I. Introduction

In 2025, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) welcomed the Baku Workplan of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP). The workplan is structured around six *Collective Approaches* (CAs), which are intended to guide collective action with shared intent and for the benefit of all.

Under *Collective Approach 5*, the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the LCIPP is mandated to develop a draft ethics protocol before its fifteenth meeting in June 2026. The development of this draft ethics protocol, together with recommendations and guidance on best practices, is intended to ensure the ethical and equitable engagement, protection, and use of traditional knowledge, the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, and local knowledge systems. The draft ethics protocol will be used at the LCIPP annual gatherings of knowledge holders, regional (or biregional gatherings), and seventh-generation roundtables.

To facilitate the direct involvement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in creating this draft ethics protocol, the FWG organized three virtual workshops between January and March 2026. Each workshop included two sessions, one in the morning and the other in late afternoon, Central European Summer Time, to enable participation across different time zones. Interpretation was provided in English, Spanish, French and Russian for these sessions, reflecting the actual requirements of the participants.

The draft ethics protocol included in the following sections reflects the diversity of principles, rights-based approaches, safeguards and cultural protocols shared through this participatory process, as well as its intended use in ways consistent with the mandate as set out under CA 5 of the Baku Workplan.

Recognizing the richness and diversity of principles, cultural protocols, values and worldviews, this LCIPP draft ethics protocol will remain as a living document. It may continue to evolve substantively to reflect inputs from knowledge holders, practitioners, and other contributors from Indigenous Peoples and local communities engaged in the work of the LCIPP.

### Section 1: Embodying the LCIPP's Guiding Principles

The Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) is an inclusive and participatory space for strengthening the engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process.

The principles below guide the exchange of knowledge, experiences and practices; building capacity for engagement; and incorporating the diversity of values, worldviews, and knowledge systems into climate policies and actions, taking into account the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of such knowledge and practices, for the benefit of all.

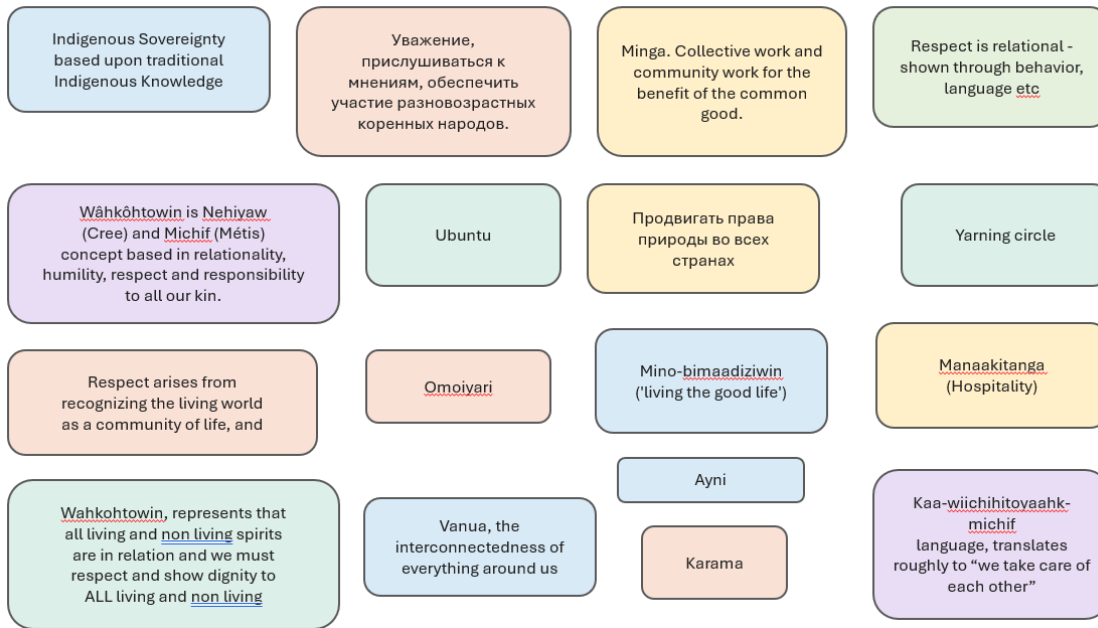
*“Respect and dignity are deeply rooted in values of kinship and relational responsibility. This includes nurturing caring relationships with family, community and the natural world, while fostering practices of mutual support, reciprocity and collective wellbeing. Central to these values is deep respect for Elders and Knowledge Holders as custodians of wisdom, cultural continuity and intergenerational learning.” – LCIPP Contributor, Workshop 3*

*“The principles should move beyond anthropocentric approaches, embracing the living system as an interconnected whole and cultivating a sense of community rather than division.” – LCIPP Contributor, Workshop 3*

#### **Respect and Dignity**

Respect and dignity guide all aspects of the LCIPP work. They call for every interaction to uphold the rights, identities, cultures, knowledge systems and lived realities of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the shared effort to address climate change and restore the integrity of nature.

*“Epistemic pluralism and respect for multiple knowledges recognising the coexistence of different ways of knowing that are all equally legitimate” - LCIPP Contributor, Workshop 3*

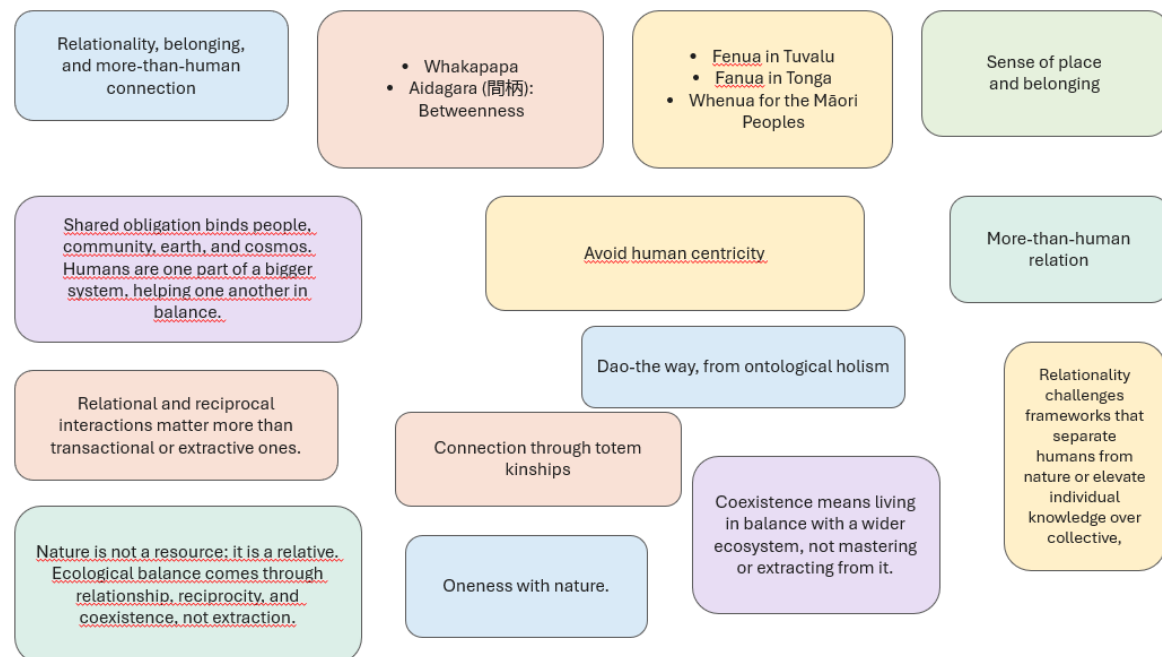


**Relationality**

Relationality grounds the work of the LCIPP in Indigenous relational worldviews and local communities’ sense of community and belonging. It recognizes the living relationship among Peoples, communities, lands, waters and bigger-than-human communities across place and time.

*“Importance and use of medicines from the land and how without those medicines we lose our ways of connecting with past generations and spirit world” – LCIPP Contributor, Workshop 3*

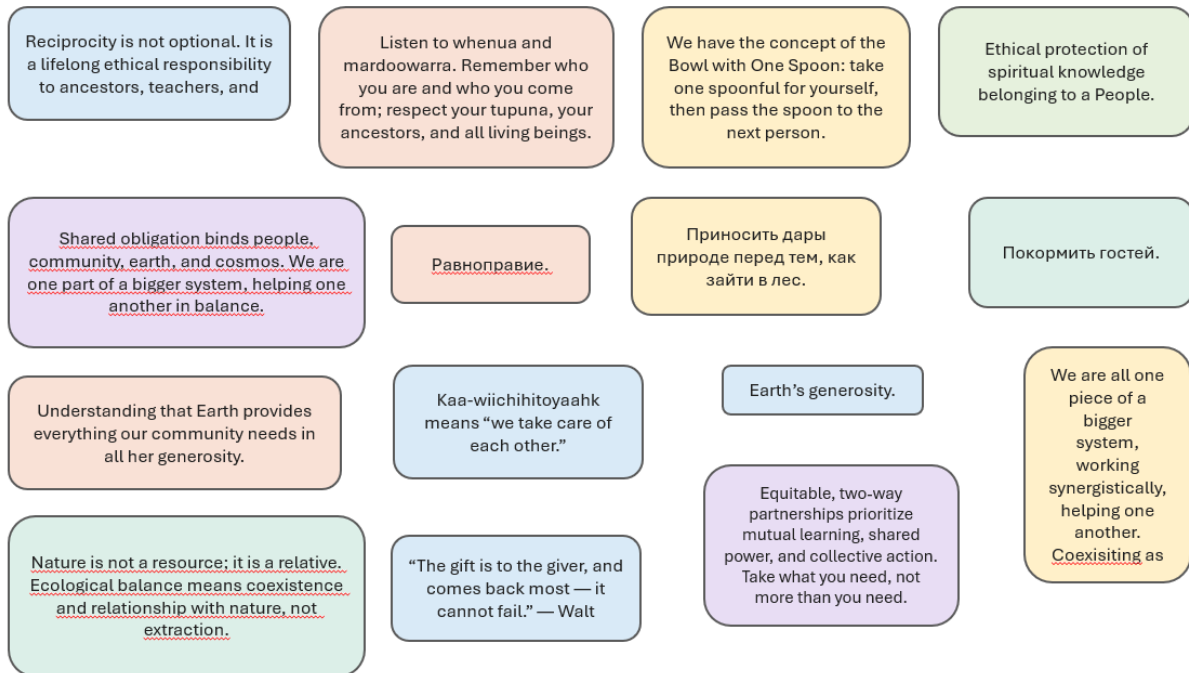
[One line here, including recognizing that knowledge is living, embedded in relationships among people, lands, waters, non-human beings, and responsibilities across generations]



**Reciprocity**

Reciprocity guides the LCIPP community, and reminds all contributors that relationships carry responsibility and that what is received from communities, knowledge holders, and nature be approached with consent and gratitude and a commitment to reciprocate for the long-term well-being of all.

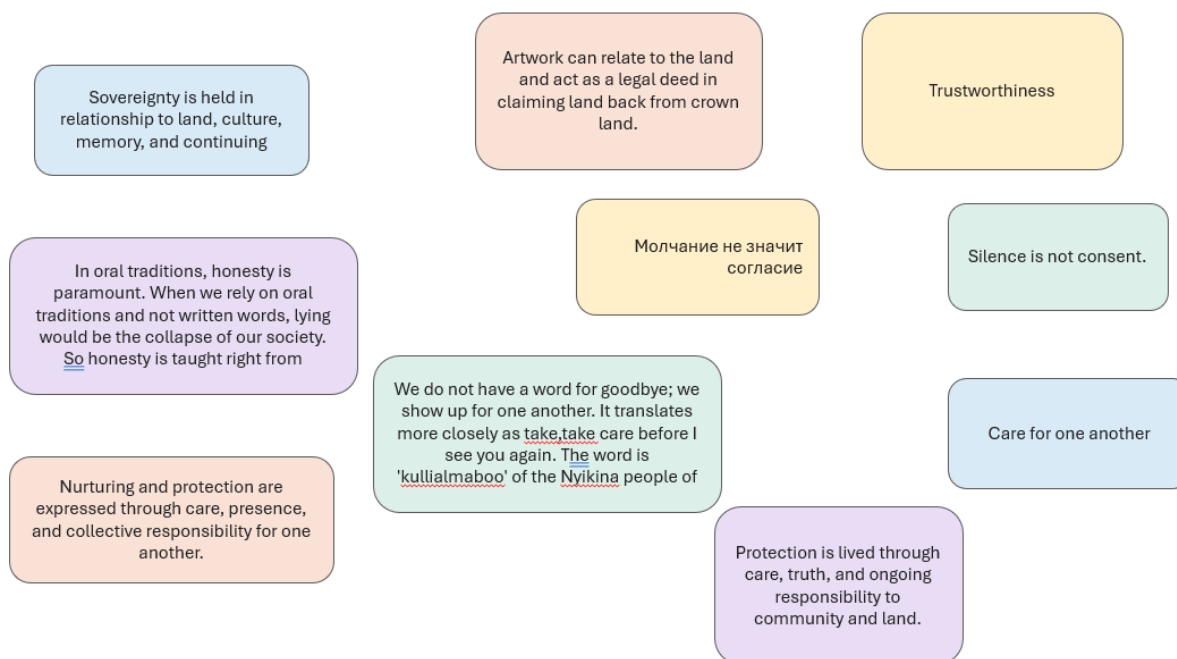
[One line here, including sense of community]



**Care and Integrity**

Care and integrity guide the LCIPP community to engage with the humility, responsibility and accountability, including through ethical and equitable engagement, protection, and use of traditional knowledge, the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, and local knowledge systems, in accordance with the principle of free, prior and informed consent from the holders of such knowledge.

*“Stewardship, intergenerational responsibility, self determination, and respect for Indigenous laws and knowledge. Ensuring culture, rights, and lands are protected for future generations” — LCIPP Contributor, Workshop 3*



## Section 2: Upholding a rights-based approach for Indigenous Peoples

COP and CMA decisions<sup>1</sup> recognize the important role of Indigenous Peoples in effective action on climate change and stewardship of nature. The principles set out in section I of this draft ethics protocol will guide the LCIPP work to respect and promote the rights and long-standing practices of Indigenous Peoples, including those highlighted in:

- i. Paris Agreement,<sup>2</sup> and in particular the Paris Agreement preamble, which acknowledges that “climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.”
- ii. The fundamental, inherent, and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples, as consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)<sup>3</sup> as an established legal instrument, including to the ways in which the following intersect with the work mandated to the body:
  - a. Upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including to self-determination as a prerequisite for all other rights, the rights to lands and resources, culture and identity, and ascribed rights and freedoms.

<sup>1</sup> These include decisions 1/CP.26, 16/CP.26, 1/CMA.3, 1/CP.27, 1/CMA.5 and 14/CP.29.

<sup>2</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP\\_E\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf)

- b. Upholding the right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent and the obligation to obtain consent for all Indigenous Knowledge holder and other contributor contributions in the LCIPP’s work under the Convention.

### Section 3: Upholding a rights-based approach for local communities

COP and CMA decisions also recognize the important role of local communities in effective action on climate change. The principles set out in section I of this draft ethics protocol will guide the work of the LCIPP to respect and promote the rights and interests of local communities including those highlighted in:

- i. Paris Agreement, and in particular the Paris Agreement preamble, which acknowledges that “climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.”
- ii. The fundamental right of self-determination (footnote) and self-identification (footnote) as it pertains to all individuals
- iii. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas<sup>4</sup>

### Section 4: Recalling the LCIPP’s existing safeguards

In line with the functions of the LCIPP, the FWG has developed rights safeguards and protocols to guide sharing of information through the platform’s web portal.<sup>5</sup>

The FWG has also adopted a set of care principles to guide the conduct of FWG meetings and mandated LCIPP events under the Baku Workplan (see figure 1)

*Figure 1 LCIPP Care Principles*

- **Speak with Care:** Share from lived experience and welcome all voices with openness, humility, and respect.
- **Listen with Care:** Engage in active, respectful listening to understand, connect, and build mutual trust.
- **Practice Awareness and Humility :** Be mindful of our presence and influence in discussions, creating space for others to contribute and be acknowledged.
- **Ensure Inclusive and Accessible Participation :** Foster an environment where everyone can participate meaningfully by providing interpretation, cultural understanding, and other accessibility measures, as appropriate.
- **Value and Bridge Diverse Knowledge Systems :** Recognize that addressing climate change requires collective wisdom and all forms of knowledge.

<sup>4</sup> <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1650694?ln=en&v=pdf>

<sup>5</sup> See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/rights-safeguards-and-protocols>

These guidance materials provide a practical framework for creating inclusive, respectful and culturally appropriate spaces for gatherings, dialogues, exchanges and collaborations among Indigenous Peoples, local communities, Parties and other contributors to the LCIPP.

**Section 5: Recognizing the importance of cultural protocols**

FWG recognizes that cultural protocols as essential to ethical and equitable engagement. Accordingly, FWG meetings and mandated LCIPP events are opened and closed with culturally appropriate invocations. FWG has also developed rights safeguards and protocols, as outlined in section 4 of this document, to guide the work of the LCIPP.

Cultural protocols shared during the LCIPP virtual workshops held between January and March 2026 have been compiled by region and made available on the LCIPP web portal [here](#). Examples of these cultural protocols are also presented in Figure 2.

This section also includes cultural protocols that were explicitly identified as protocols of Indigenous Peoples (see table 1) and those explicitly identified as protocols of local communities (see table 2). These protocols are presented by region in tables xx and xx to reflect regional diversity.

*Figure 2 Examples of cultural protocols shared during LCIPP virtual workshops conducted between January and March 2026*

<p><b>Respect for cultural protocols, spirituality and relational practices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honour cultural protocols such as invocations, prayers, Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement to Country, while providing appropriate cultural context so participants can learn from and understand their significance.</li> <li>Recognise that knowledge systems are relational and rooted in ancestry, homeland, kinship and responsibilities to Mother Earth/nature as kin.</li> <li>Create space for genuine introductions, positionality and situating oneself in relation to community, purpose and the gifts or responsibilities one brings.</li> <li>Respect relational accountability by acknowledging the relationships and communities connected to the knowledge shared.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Respect for elders, youth, participation and community governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respect elders, healers and knowledge holders, while supporting the meaningful participation of youth and intergenerational exchange in decision-making.</li> <li>Ensure everyone has a voice, respect differing and opposing views, and uphold non-imposition and epistemic humility in dialogue processes.</li> <li>Recognise that silence is not necessarily consent and may signal discomfort or unresolved concerns.</li> <li>Respect community governance structures, including caucus/internal meetings, dispute resolution mechanisms, and the right of communities to determine representation and participation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Consent, protection and ethical use of knowledge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain free, prior and informed consent from elders, knowledge holders and communities before documenting, publishing or using knowledge.</li> <li>Ensure participants understand how knowledge will be used and prevent use beyond what was agreed or permitted.</li> <li>Recognise that some knowledge is sacred, contextual and not intended for public sharing or translation outside the community.</li> <li>Respect Indigenous Peoples’ rights to preserve cultural heritage, maintain ownership, attribution and control over traditional knowledge, including recognition of copyright and representation rights.</li> <li>Acknowledge that Indigenous knowledge systems cannot be separated from Indigenous Peoples and should not be treated in the same way as Western knowledge systems.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Relationship-building, reciprocity and culturally appropriate engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest sufficient time for trust-building, dialogue and relationship-centred processes, recognising that meaningful engagement cannot always follow rigid timelines.</li> <li>Follow community-specific protocols rather than assuming uniform approaches across Indigenous Peoples and local communities.</li> <li>Ensure reciprocity by valuing and employing local knowledge holders and community expertise, rather than relying solely on external academics or institutions.</li> <li>Support truth-telling and communication in Indigenous and local languages, recognising that some concepts and meanings are not easily translated.</li> <li>Ensure participation processes are accessible and equitable, including addressing practical barriers such as unstable internet connectivity.</li> </ul>

Table 1 Cultural protocols of Indigenous Peoples

Region	People(s)	Cultural Protocols
Africa		
Arctic		
Asia		
Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia		
Central and South America, and the Caribbean		
North America		
The Pacific		
<i>(Reviewers, you are welcome to submit examples of additional cultural protocols)</i>		

Table 2 Cultural Protocols of local communities

Region	Local Community	Cultural Protocols
<i>(Reviewers, you are welcome to submit examples of additional cultural protocols)</i>		

## Section 6: Ensuring ethical engagement in the work of the LCIPP<sup>6</sup>

In line with the guidance set out in sections 1–5 of this draft ethics protocol, and relevant mandates, the FWG will facilitate the ethical and equitable engagement of knowledge holders and practitioners from Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the work of the LCIPP, including through:

- i. Supporting co-design and co-creation, including through:
  - a. Co-designing the programmes and outputs of the LCIPP gatherings and seventh-generation roundtable, in line with existing mandated deliverables
  - b. Ensuring open and transparent processes for the nomination of knowledge holders and practitioners from Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- ii. Ensuring good processes for knowledge, information, and data sharing for both Indigenous Peoples and for local communities, and establishing ownership and use permissions, including through:
  - a. (more here – call in FPIC, identify existing processes for material submissions, etc., possibly identify a process for further exploring the ownership and use pieces)
- iii. Supporting accessibility in recognition of our diverse realities, including through:
  - a. Providing support for language accessibility by:

<sup>6</sup> In line with relevant mandated deliverables under the Baku Workplan of the LCIPP

- i. Facilitating the provision of multilingual participation and interpretation consistent with decision 14/CP.29
    - ii. Inviting Parties to provide interpretation beyond the UN official languages and the Secretariat, where possible, to make any necessary arrangements for accommodating such additional simultaneous interpretation<sup>7</sup>
  - b. Supporting diverse communication formats and channels by:
    - i. Continuously exploring additional ways to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and practices in diverse formats, including those reflected in relevant LCIPP communication and outreach plans (e.g., LCIPP Outreach and Dissemination Plan)
- iv. Ensuring multiple participation formats, including through:
  - a. Supporting participation through diverse formats including oral, storytelling, and audiovisual methods, as well as ceremony-consistent approaches where appropriate, and other non-written contributions.
  - b. Ensuring to the greatest extent possible that hybrid modalities do not disadvantage contributors with limited connectivity.
- v. Ensuring participation support, including through:
  - a. Providing clear logistical arrangements and communication, culturally appropriate facilitation, easily accessible and advanced materials, and recognition for contributors' time zones and varied capacities.

### **Section 7: Applying the Draft Ethics Protocol and ensuring continuous learning**

As outlined in the Baku Workplan of the LCIPP, this draft ethics protocol will guide the conduct of mandated LCIPP events. Together with other mandated workplan deliverables, its application aims to foster climate actions that reflect the values, worldviews, knowledge systems and priorities of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Recognizing the multiplicity of values, knowledge systems, and ways of relating, the FWG will review the draft ethics protocol, as appropriate, update relevant sections of this draft LCIPP ethics protocol document annually at its second meeting each year. This will contribute toward ensuring the ethical and equitable engagement, protection, and use of traditional knowledge, the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, and local knowledge systems, including by:

- i. Ensuring transparency and accountability, including through:
  - a. Ensuring this draft ethics protocol is adhered to when designing, planning, and delivering the LCIPP gatherings, dialogues, and webinars, as in line with its mandate set in decision 2/CP.24.
  - b. Incorporating this draft ethics protocol into participant briefings and relevant communication materials, including presentations.
- ii. Providing a living document, and ensuring continuous monitoring and improvement, including through:
  - a. Establishing an annual review, drawing on feedback from gatherings and evolving good practices.

---

<sup>7</sup> Decision 14/CP.29

- b. Maintaining open, accessible channels for contributors to submit continuous submissions, feedback, and lessons learned, and made available to Indigenous peoples, local communities, Parties, and other LCIPP contributors through a dedicated space on the LCIPP Web Portal.<sup>8</sup>
- c. Committing to continuous learning and capacity support, including through:
  - i. Providing brief orientations for FWG members and LCIPP contributors on applying and improving the draft ethics protocols through the activities and deliverables under the LCIPP workplan.

DRAFT

---

<sup>8</sup> See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/>

Annex I. Materials submitted by Indigenous Peoples – Compilation of Relevant Indigenous concepts, values, and the practices of Indigenous Peoples, including in Indigenous languages and non-written communication formats

[relevant material to be added]

DRAFT

Annex II. Materials submitted by local communities – Compilation of relevant concepts and practices from local communities, including in local languages and non-written communication formats

DRAFT

Annex III. Materials from the 2026 Ethics Workshops – Compilation of relevant materials, including submissions from the virtual workshops held in 2026

DRAFT

Annex V. Examples of possible ways the knowledge and practices shared through the work of the LCIPP may be disseminated and applied

When knowledge and practices are shared in i) gatherings of knowledge holders, ii) regional (or bi-regional) gatherings, and iii) seventh-generation round tables, it is collected by note takers.

In that context, we want all contributors to be aware that input shared is being recorded at these events, and the knowledge, stories and practices you share should have the permission(s) from your community(ies) to be shared at these events.

As a first step, the knowledge and practices will be presented to UNFCCC Constituted Body representatives attending these events (i.e. part two).

From there, the knowledge and practices shared may be further shared in a number of ways:

1. FWG members presenting to other UNFCCC constituted bodies highlighting the knowledges, practices and values of Indigenous Peoples, and local communities.
2. To showcase in FWG meetings

Please ensure you are comfortable with the contributions you share being used in this way/these ways before you share.

Contributor acknowledgement (signature): \_\_\_\_\_