



International
INDIGENOUS

Climate Change Research Summit

COMMUNIQUÉ

International Indigenous Climate Change Summit (IICCRS) communiqué

Opening Statement

We, the delegates of the International Indigenous Climate Change Summit (IICCRS), gathered from November 13th to 17th, 2023, recognize the profound climate crisis facing our world and its dire consequences for Indigenous peoples, our lands, and the global ecosystem. This communiqué is an urgent message intended for world leaders, policymakers, environmental organisations, and the global community. It underscores the pivotal role of Indigenous voices, ideas, and actionable solutions in addressing climate change.

Traditional Knowledges and Climate Change

1. People, place, and wellbeing are critically interconnected and solutions lie in transforming our relationships with our environments.
2. We emphasise the critical role of Indigenous knowledge in comprehending, mitigating, and adapting to climate change. We urge you to listen to this timeless wisdom to strengthen decision-making and climate policies.
3. Governments and organisations must actively support Indigenous-led efforts to document, preserve, pass on and share Indigenous knowledge and wisdom. These endeavours are paramount for ensuring flourishing global futures and environments.
4. Collaborative Indigenous-led research endeavours, ensuring respectful engagement with Indigenous communities, are essential to ethically collect, store and share traditional knowledge.
5. Indigenous resource management practices must be woven into global climate adaptation efforts.
6. Widespread environmental consciousness and respect is an urgent priority. We urge all sectors to acknowledge the vital role that Indigenous knowledge and people play in ensuring robust climate adaptation approaches.

Indigenous Rights and Climate Justice

7. The recognition and upholding of Indigenous rights, including land rights, is an absolute imperative. Governments and organisations must recognise and act to protect the inalienable relationship between Indigenous communities and their environments and resources.
8. Climate-induced displacement is a pressing concern. Displacement ruptures communities, cultures, and futures. Governments and organisations must resource Indigenous communities to ensure the continuity of cultural infrastructure, meaningful livelihoods, housing, education, healthcare, and social services. Adopted principles and processes of relocation must ensure Indigenous peoples' land and resource estates do not decrease in total size, and the quality of their land, interactions and resource estate overall is maintained or increased.
9. Acknowledging unique vulnerabilities and significant roles in the community, Indigenous women and youth must be supported to take active roles to lead decision-making processes concerning climate actions and Indigenous futures.
10. Legal frameworks need to be implemented to hold offenders accountable for environmental damage and human rights violations against Indigenous peoples, communities, and environments.
11. Climate policies and funding allocation for climate change actions must be equitable and socially just and empower Indigenous communities into meaningful control of their futures.

Indigenous-Led Climate Action

12. Governments and organisations must actively support Indigenous-run enterprises designed to enable flourishing Indigenous futures. This needs just financial and technical support.
13. Acknowledgment and inclusion of Indigenous land and resource management practices into broader climate mitigation strategies are essential.
14. Access to clean water and sanitation is a fundamental right for Indigenous communities. Prioritising investments in clean water practices and infrastructure will enhance living conditions and health.
15. Indigenous-led health services must be strengthened and supported to address climate-induced health challenges, including increased susceptibility to unwellness and extreme weather events.
16. Governments and organisations must provide support for Indigenous communities to access and grow climate resilient locally sourced crops and crop varieties, and to strengthen food security systems.

Collaborative Partnerships and Knowledge Sharing

17. Institutions of higher learning and research must collaborate with Indigenous communities to develop and progress joint research initiatives addressing climate-related issues and to inform climate action.

18. Governments and organisations must institute equitable processes for the identification and distribution of grants and funding to support Indigenous-led climate initiatives, placing a strong emphasis on solutions driven by and for the community.
19. The establishment of international networks of Indigenous communities and organisations must be supported to facilitate the exchange of climate actions and evidenced solutions. Governments and organisations must support Indigenous participation in such networks.
20. The invaluable contributions of Indigenous elders and knowledge keepers in climate decision-making processes must be recognized, and their insights actively sought and esteemed in all climate action.

Conclusion

The International Indigenous Climate Change Summit (IICCRS) communiqué asserts the urgency of the climate crisis and the pivotal role of Indigenous knowledge, wisdom and actions in crafting effective solutions. We implore world leaders and stakeholders to heed these recommendations and act decisively. The survival of planetary ecosystems, diverse cultures, and future generations hinges on our collective commitment to combating climate change and promoting environmental equity. United, our actions today will determine the course of tomorrow.



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International Indigenous Climate Change Research Summit
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