

Empowering Indigenous Peoples: Driving Participation in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Climate Action

COP29 interactive dialogue
Wednesday, November 13 | 12:30 - 1:15 pm
Indigenous Peoples Pavilion



BACKGROUND

As climate change continues to disproportionately affect vulnerable communities, the role of Indigenous Peoples in shaping climate policies is crucial. Indigenous communities possess deep ecological knowledge and sustainable land management practices that are invaluable for climate adaptation and mitigation. However, despite their vital contributions, their voices are often underrepresented in formal climate decision-making processes like Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

At COP29, with an increased focus on inclusivity and just transitions, it is imperative to explore how Indigenous Peoples can meaningfully participate in developing and implementing NDCs. By creating a platform for dialogue and collaboration, this event aims to bridge the gap between policy frameworks and the grassroots knowledge that Indigenous communities offer. This aligns with the broader COP29 themes of gender equality, youth empowerment, and Indigenous Peoples' participation in climate action.

This event is organized by the **FSC Indigenous Foundation**, the **Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)**, and the **Network for Indigenous People and Local Communities for Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPALEAC)**.



OBJECTIVES

- **Highlight the role of Indigenous women and youth** in climate adaptation and mitigation, particularly within the context of NDC development and implementation.
- **Promote mechanisms for inclusive participation** of Indigenous communities in NDCs, drawing on their traditional knowledge and practices.
- **Explore policy tools and financial mechanisms** to support Indigenous-led initiatives within NDCs, ensuring they are climate-resilient and culturally sensitive.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- A set of actionable recommendations for national governments on how to integrate Indigenous Peoples into the NDC process.
- Identification of policy gaps and opportunities for capacity-building, financing, and collaboration with Indigenous communities.
- Strengthened networks between Indigenous leaders, youth advocates, and policymakers.
- A draft action plan for future NDC processes, focused on Indigenous inclusion, to be shared at subsequent UNFCCC events.

AGENDA

Time	Segment	Speaker
12:30 - 12:35pm	Opening remarks	Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim , FSC Indigenous Foundation and AFPAT (TBC)
12:35 - 12:40pm	Introduction of panel	Moderator: Salina Sanou , FSC Indigenous Foundation
12:40 - 1:05pm	Panel discussion	Kanyinke Sena , IPACC Balkisou Buba , REPALEAC Anne Samante , FSC Permanent Indigenous Peoples Committee
1:05 - 1:10pm	Q&A	Open discussion
1:10 - 1:15pm	Closing remarks	Mohamed Handaine , IPACC

SPEAKERS

**Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Chair of FSC Indigenous Foundation Council,
Coordinator of the Association of Peul Women and Autochthonous Peoples of
Chad (AFPAT)**



Ms. Hindou Oumarou is a member of the Mbororo People of Chad, chair of the FSC Indigenous Foundation Council and an environmental and Indigenous Peoples activist. She is the Coordinator of the Association of Peul Women and Autochthonous Peoples of Chad (AFPAT) and served as the co-director of the pavilion of the World Indigenous Peoples' Initiative and Pavilion at COP21, COP22 and COP23. She is the gender representative and Congo Basin Region and Focal Point on Climate Change in the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC).

Dr. Kanyinke Sena, Executive Director, IPACC



Dr. Kanyinke Sena is an Ogiek from Kenya who holds a Doctorate in Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy from the University of Arizona. He is the Director of the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC). He is also a co-chair of CEESP - SPICEH. Dr. Sena teaches human rights and environmental law at the Faculty of Law, Egerton University, Kenya. Previously he served as member and Chair person of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and member African Commission Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

Balkisou Buba, Vice President of the Cameroon Branch of REPALEAC



Ms. Balkisou Buba, from the Mbororo Fulani Pastoralist community of Cameroon, is a social worker and Founder/President of the Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Development Association. She is Vice National Coordinator of REPALEAC. She has over 10 years of experience advocating for Indigenous rights, community development, climate change/REDD+, land rights, natural resource management, and women's empowerment. Balkisou has represented Africa in various international forums and served as Assistant Observer for French Africa in the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.

Anne Samante, FSC Permanent Indigenous Peoples Committee member



An Indigenous woman from the Maasai community in Southern Kenya, Anne Samante serves as the Head of Programs and Partnerships at the Mainyoito Pastoralists Integrated Development Organization (MPIDO). She is also the National Coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples National Steering Committee on Climate Change, mobilizing communities to tackle climate challenges. With over 10 years of experience, her expertise includes environmental rights, gender equality, and local livelihoods. She holds an MBA in Strategic Management and a Bachelor of Commerce in Finance and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Leadership and Governance.

Salina Sanou, FSC Indigenous Foundation Africa and Asia Director and IPARD Deputy Director



Ms. Salina Sanou is a renowned pan-African policy and advocacy expert with extensive experience in strategic partnership development, research, and program work. Previously, Salina was Head of Programs at PACJA and has worked across Africa with organizations such as ACORD, Forum of African Women's Educationalists, CARE International, Oxfam, and the UN Millennium Project. With a strong background in Gender and Women's Rights, she has developed models like the Animatrice Model to promote girls' education and an agri-business model to economically empower women. Salina holds degrees from the University of Nairobi and McGill University.

Handaine Mohamed, North Africa Regional Representative and Chairperson of the Executive Committee, IPACC



Dr. Mohamed Handaine is an Amazigh Indigenous person, born in the Chtouka region of southern Morocco. He is a teacher, researcher, doctor of history, writer, and specialist in indigenous issues in Africa, climate change, and biodiversity. Most recently, Dr. Handaine has been selected as the Africa Representative for the UNESCO Year of Indigenous Languages (2019). He has a rich history of involvement in UN process, participating in many UNFCCC COPs and CBDs over the years, engaging with issues of climate change and biodiversity in relation with traditional knowledge and Indigenous peoples.