

Platform to Support Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in  
Forest and Climate Action

# **Governance-related questions received by the Expert Group and options for consideration**

1. Background .....	2
2. Questions received .....	2
3. Decisions on Governance options .....	3
3.1 Members of the Platform .....	3
3.2 What is the character of the Platform .....	3
3.3 Roles of the Platform members .....	4
3.4 Decision-making process .....	4
3.4.1 FCLP IP&LC Co-Leads Role.....	5
3.5 IP&LC-FLCP Working Area .....	5
3.6 FCLP Secretariat.....	5
3.7 Platform’s meetings .....	6
3.8 Implementation of the Platform Work Plan.....	6
3.8.1 Implementation partners.....	6
3.8.2 Connecting with financing opportunities .....	7

# 1. Background

From February to July 2024, a group of experts representing governments, the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities, funders, civil society and international organizations, worked on delivering a set of recommendations for the operationalization of the Platform. The expert group had five online workshops/meetings and several bilateral meetings with affected rightsholder organizations to prepare the recommendations. Also, at a workshop in Oslo on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2024, the Group of Experts, funders, civil society organizations, and several IP&LC organizations, including the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities, worked on a Work Plan to be implemented in 2024 and 2025.

At the same time, the FCLP Secretariat has received relevant questions and input regarding how the Platform will work, the roles of members, and its general governance remain.

Based on feedback to date, the FCLP Secretariat has put forward a simple but effective governance for the Platform. This proposed governance, crucial for the effective functioning of the Platform, will provide a clear but simple and practical structure, reassuring all stakeholders and instilling confidence in the Platform's future.

# 2. Questions received

The FCLP Secretariat received the following 13 questions which can be classified in five categories or areas:

Areas	Questions
Members and Roles	1. Who are the Platform members? 2. How will IP&LC leadership be represented in the governance of the platform?
Decisions	3. What kind of decisions will be taken as a group? 4. Who takes those decisions? 5. Who approves the work plan? 6. Who authorizes communications and announcements about the Platform?
Roles	7. Who are the key external-facing points of contact for the Platform? 8. Who will call and lead meetings? 9. How is the Platform related with the IP&LC Working Group Area in FCLP (only governments)?
Work Plan	10. What are the mechanisms to connect with resources available in the countries for their support?

Areas	Questions
	11. Is there room to propose ideas for meetings, events, or other projects to the platform, outside of what has been established in the work plan? If so, what are the mechanisms to do so? 12. Will the platform only rely on resources made available by members/partners or does it have an independent pool of funds that can be used for events, meetings, etc.?
FCLP Secretariat	13. How permanent are any resource contributions from the Secretariat (i.e. people, budget for travel/workshops etc.)? What is the role of FCLP Secretariat?

### 3. Decisions on Governance options

#### 3.1 Members of the Platform

Members of the Platform are entities that have expressed their interest (by writing or expressing their interest verbally) in participation and engagement. Those members can be:

1. Interested FCLP government members (+ associated national indigenous leaders if desirable).
2. Interested members of the Forest Tenure Funders Group (FTFG).
3. The Global Alliance of Territorial Communities, GATC.
4. Other interested governments or specialized organizations.

The Global Alliance of Territorial Communities is a member of the Platform and represents the organic governance structure that IP&LC organizations have from territories, provinces, nations, regions until escalating to the international level; Countries will invite additional IP&LC organizations when discussions about their country take place, especially in matters related to the Platform Work Plan’s Outcome One. And of course, national IP&LC organizations will be invited to the international events.

#### 3.2 What is the character of the Platform

The Platform is an alliance of the willing for action and ambition that will work on the base of political will and voluntarily support. It is a space for coordination and advancing collective action, which is additional and complementary to bilateral conversations that members can have.

The Platform aims to be:

- i) inclusive, especially with IP&LC organizations that work at the national or regional levels;
- ii) multistakeholder driven, including governments, country donors, philanthropies and IP&LC organizations; and
- iii) a safe space for trusted conversations where knowledge and experiences can be shared to increase all stakeholder's capacity to deliver.

### 3.3 Roles of the Platform members

As the Platform is an alliance of the willing for action and ambition that will work on the base of voluntarily support, members should consider how to:

- a. Participate in meetings and support analysis within their technical capacity and political mandates.
- b. Propose issues to debate, analyze and promote specific action.
- c. Collaborate together to achieve Platform's work plan.
- d. Connect countries with technical and financial opportunities that already exist the countries and regions (funds that are already in the country, experts, partners).
- e. Connect with the IP&LC organizations at country, regional and international level to secure an inclusive implementation of the work plan.
- f. Offer technical, financial and political support, when possible.

### 3.4 Decision-making process

The Platform is an alliance of the willing for action and ambition that will work on the basis of voluntary support from and to members. The Platform itself is not a legal entity.

Given the relationship between the FCLP and the Platform, decisions about how to move forward, meeting content, event agendas etc. will be taken by the Co-Leads for the Action Area to Support Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in FCLP: Norway and Peru, It is the responsibility of the Co-leads and the FCLP Secretariat to consult with other members of the Platform. The Co-Leads role is an extension of the structure of how the FCLP works, when two designated Co-Leads (one from the global north and one from the south) lead a workstream with other governments that have committed to achieve the Glasgow ambition (halt deforestation until 2030).

Any statements that the platform members may issue as a collective will be signed by the Platform members, rather than on behalf of “The Platform”.

If two or more actors in the Platform have agreed to work on an initiative, the actors involved should communicate or launch the initiative rather than “The Platform” launching an initiative.

### **3.4.1 FCLP IP&LC Co-Leads Role**

- a. Secure the collaborative and supportive space for all Platform members and participants to contribute to the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration goal of halting and reversing deforestation and land degradation by 2030.
- b. Develop formal and informal partnerships and thematic working groups with other members of the Platform to ensure impact at the national, regional, and global levels.
- c. Obtain resources to operationalize the Platform (team, technical support, communications)
- d. Secure partnerships with institutions that can work in the implementation of actions on the ground. E.g. The Tenure Facility, RRI, UNDP.

## **3.5 IP&LC-FLCP Working Area**

Whilst the IP&LC Working Area in FCLP is an area where only governments participate, the Platform is a broader group that includes FTFG members and IP & LC organizations. These two levels of corporation can helpfully co-exist and reinforce one another.

## **3.6 FCLP Secretariat**

The FCLP Secretariat is the Secretariat of the Platform. The role of the Secretariat is:

- a. Facilitate meetings. Produce documentation.
- b. Organize events.
- c. Promote a coordination with COP Presidencies and high-level actors.
- d. Generate, collect and systematize information to share with members.
- e. Manage communications and campaigns that Platform have agreed to do.
- f. Manage budget for events and activities that Co-Leads can allocate.

### 3.7 Platform's meetings

Platform meetings are closed meetings with attendance of members, exclusively.

In-person meetings will take place on the side of international events when feasible. For example, on the sidelines of UNFCCC COPs, New York Climate Week and others. Online meetings will also be part of the meeting schedule.

The platform aims to have four meetings annually.

### 3.8 Implementation of the Platform Work Plan

FCLP Secretariat's team will facilitate and coordinate operations and logistical issues with the support of members that have expressed interest in supporting its work (E.g. CLUA, Ford Foundation).

Outcome One of the Platform's Work Plan refers to the support for countries and their IP&LC organizations that have decided to advance in the development of policies and strategies that improve the implementation of the rights of IP&LC. This support implies:

- Connect with technical resources, information and lessons learned from other countries that are working in developing policies for similar issues.
- Contribute with brainstorming, analysis and deep understanding of the challenges that IP&LC are facing in the countries.
- Connect the member countries with IP and LCs organizations at the national and international level.
- Connect the member countries with an international community working to raise ambitions on issues related with the rights, participation and benefits of IP&LC.
- Promote regional collaboration between countries.

Connect with funding opportunities and partners in the country and region<sup>1</sup>.

#### 3.8.1 Implementation partners

Partners of the Platform are institutions and organizations who are working at the national or regional level and can execute activities that have agreed with the Platform or between

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<sup>1</sup> Some philanthropies have expressed the interest to contribute to national goals whilst some country donors have already in place large scale agreements with countries and partners.

countries and other members of the Platform (Example: UNDP, The Tenure Facility, Rights and Resources Initiative).

Partners that can collaborate with the Platform are institutions that:

- a. Are experts in the implementation of IP&LC topics.
- b. Have technical and financial capacity to develop the tasks needed in the country.
- c. Have presence and activities in the country where activities will take place.
- d. Have a network that includes IP & LC organizations in the country where the support is needed.

### **3.8.2 Connecting with financing opportunities**

For Outcome 1 which is related with the support of countries that are willing to work in new or in the improvement of policies related to protect IP&LC rights, members of the Platform can participate in the meetings in the following ways:

1. Connect the country with the adequate/ relevant partners who are working in that country and have already financing in place. E.g. UNDP, GIZ, The Tenure Facility.
2. Link the country with funding opportunities coming from philanthropies. E.g. Re:wild, FORD Foundation, Bezos Earth Fund.
3. Contribute with information about local programs already supported in-country
4. Learn and understand the complexities and challenges that the country is facing.

Meetings and events to address Outcome 2 will include national IP&LC organizations.