

Second Multi-stakeholder Briefing on SIDS4: Updates and Views on the Zero Draft Outcome Document

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The organization *Climate Rights & Justice International's* core vision centres on a human rights-driven response to the climate crisis in Big Ocean Striving States (BOSS) and other vulnerable regions in the Americas and beyond, prioritizing social justice and the right to health. We conduct groundbreaking, interdisciplinary research and advocacy, producing high-quality data, and demanding a human rights-driven policy response to the climate crisis. We work to activate the right to health and amplify the voices of vulnerable and marginalized communities in BOSS and other vulnerable regions in the Americas and beyond.

Our intervention refers to Chapter III of the Zero Draft Outcome Document, "How Do SIDS Get There?" We wish to specifically highlight the fact that section iii of this chapter, *Strengthening Data Collection*, does not make mention of indigenous population and other marginalized communities. Unfortunately, there is a dearth of targeted policies and resources for climate resilience among indigenous populations in the Caribbean. Central to this problem is a lack of quality data about these communities. We know that indigenous populations worldwide are more socially and economically marginalized and, therefore, more vulnerable to the effects of climate change. In the Caribbean, economic challenges facing the region exacerbate this vulnerability. However, there is little to no data to measure the nature and extent of this vulnerability for Caribbean indigenous populations.

We therefore wish to recommend that some amendments be made to paragraph 41, which outlines points a) to f) as actions to "foster more and better data generation, use and understanding in SIDS". We would recommend the inclusion of the following additional points, namely:

g) Leverage this data, working with indigenous communities, to conduct human rights-based policy advocacy and resource acquisition to strengthen indigenous populations' climate resilience;

h) Make this high-quality data freely available to indigenous communities, climate activists, decision-makers, and litigants in national and international forums to fill the data gap, enhance access to climate justice, and bolster impact litigation strategies; and

i) Utilise this data to highlight and amplify indigenous peoples' invaluable traditional wisdom about the natural environment as it relates to climate change

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to The SIDS4 Secretariat for the opportunity to contribute to such an historic and vibrant document.