

Wisdom Keeper Delegation

Policy document





Our Guiding Principle

THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF LIFE

Nature is not a resource to extract; nature is a relative to love.

Acknowledging the undeniable interconnectedness of all aspects of life restores a profound understanding of the intricate web of relationships that bind us to one another as a part of the natural world. Policies created with this unity-centric worldview have the power to transcend borders and bring together diverse communities and nations.

This perspective, deeply rooted in numerous Indigenous and First Nations worldviews, rejects colonial priorities of hierarchical division and self-interest, priorities that construct “others” who matter less. Instead, our decisions respect our interdependence on all members of our global community and the inherent value they all (human, plant, animal, and ecosystem alike) carry. This is the mindset where holistic, just solutions originate.

It is through this lens of unity, humility, and collective responsibility that we have designed the following policy proposal.

Key Themes for Policy Focus and Advocacy

- 1 *Global System of Extraction is Responsible for Climate Crisis***

We recognize that the climate crisis is rooted in imperialism and economic inequality, the global economic system and developed economies being predominantly responsible for emissions. We will call for a reevaluation of global economic systems to rectify these imbalances.
- 2 *Less is More: Planned reduction of consumption and production***

Our delegation supports degrowth and post-growth solutions emphasizing the need to prioritize human and planetary well-being over endless production and consumption.
- 3 *A Shift from GDP to Wellbeing Economy***

The global economy must transition from its current unsustainable model to one that values wellbeing over growth. We will push for innovation in social structures and systems.
- 4 *Quantifying nature is not a solution***

Our delegation opposes the mainstream approach of quantifying nature as a solution to the climate crisis, highlighting the ethical and ontological challenges it poses.
- 5 *Indigenous-Led Climate Action and Policy Integration***

Promote the integration of Indigenous knowledge, practices, and perspectives into national and international climate policies.
- 6 *Biodiversity Conservation and Indigenous Practices***

Support Indigenous-led initiatives that contribute to the conservation of marine and terrestrial environments, including policies that address overfishing, deforestation, and habitat degradation.
- 7 *Reparations & Redistribution***

We recognize the ecological debt and will advocate for reparations, debt cancellations and the redistribution of resources to rectify historical injustices.

Policy Priorities for COP28

We, the delegation, have identified key policy priorities for our participation at COP28, aimed at addressing the urgent climate crisis and fostering global cooperation. We will host a series of side events in both the Green and Blue zones of COP28 to promote our policy priorities. These events will focus on Indigenous-led climate action, decolonization, and environmental equity.

OCEAN HEALTH & PROTECTION

Our delegation recognizes the critical importance of ocean health and protection, particularly safeguarding coastal reefs around island nations. To address this priority, we will advocate for:

- Stronger commitments to marine conservation, high seas stewardship, and the preservation of coral reefs along with the coastal communities that depend on them for their survival
- The promotion of sustainable fishing practices and the elimination of plastic production.
- Investment in indigenous-led ocean conservation initiatives, drawing from their traditional knowledge and practices.

POST-GROWTH SOLUTIONS & REPERATIONS

We believe that addressing the climate crisis requires acknowledging the historical responsibility of the Global North and rectifying the inequities perpetuated by colonialism. Our delegation will work towards:

- Advocating for a planned reduction of production and consumption, moving away from GDP growth as the sole objective.
- Highlighting the need for reparations and including debt cancellations and resource redistribution.
- Encouraging international cooperation to shift the economic paradigm towards a Wellbeing Economy.

RESTORING THE KINSHIP VIEW: INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING

Nuestra delegación pretende cuestionar la visión colonial dominante de la naturaleza, que a menudo cuantifica y mercantiliza el medio ambiente. Nos centraremos en:

- Promoting Indigenous Ways of Knowing as a valuable alternative perspective on nature, highlighting its holistic and interconnected worldview.
- Advocating for the inclusion of Indigenous voices and practices in climate policy and global negotiations.
- Encouraging the establishment of working groups to explore alternative systems for valuing nature.

Policy Priorities for COP28

ARTICLE 6 OF PARIS CLIMATE ACCORD

Article 6 of the Paris Climate Accord allows countries to voluntarily cooperate to achieve their emission reduction targets. It includes three main mechanisms:

- **Article 6.2: Bilateral trading of emission credits**
- **Article 6.4: Centralized trading of emission credits under the supervision of the Conference of Parties (COP).**
- **Article 6.8: Non-market approaches to cooperation on mitigation and adaptation.**

At COP26, Indigenous Peoples made progress on human rights and grievance procedures in Article 6, but engagement was limited at COP27. The Egyptian Presidency's heavy-handed approach to the COP27 negotiations, limiting formal negotiating time and pressure bilateral discussions, restricted the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples and other constituency groups.

Countries made limited progress on key issues at COP27 regarding Article 6, including measuring and accounting for emission reductions, rules for activities that remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, and rights of Indigenous peoples and vulnerable groups. The Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan maintained the Glasgow language on phasing down coal and phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, and also took steps backward on Indigenous Peoples, reducing references from eight to two.

Our Delegation will be advocating on the following:

Avoidance activities should not be counted in Article 6.4:

- REDD+ and other Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) are often greenwashed extensions of green colonialism and capitalism. HG emissions avoidance prevents the release of anticipated emissions, but may overestimate climate action progress.

A mechanism to address double counting:

- Mitigation contributions: These can be traded domestically or voluntarily, but not internationally, and are not removed from the country's national inventory.
- CDM credits transferred to the new international carbon market: These can be used towards a country's first or first updated NDC, but the country of origin does not have to remove them from its national inventory

Strengthen Indigenous Peoples' inclusion in climate policy processes by:

- Applying the LCIPP's collaborative model, implementing its recommendations, realizing its functions, and increasing meaningful government engagement.
- Ensuring balanced formal negotiations and informal opportunities that allow Indigenous and civil society involvement and intervention.
- Ensuring that Nature-Based Solutions projects are developed and implemented in direct consultation with tribal nations where the projects are located, and that Traditional Ecological Knowledge is used in conjunction with tribal practitioners, not by corporate entities and employees.

Policy Priorities for COP28

JUST TRANSITION

is a term used to describe the process of moving to a low-carbon economy in a way that is fair and equitable for all workers and communities. It involves investing in new green jobs, providing support for workers who transition from old jobs, and ensuring that everyone has access to the benefits of the new economy.

LOSS & DAMAGE

is a term used to describe the process of moving to a low-carbon economy in a way that is fair and equitable for all workers and communities. It involves investing in new green jobs, providing support for workers who transition from old jobs, and ensuring that everyone has access to the benefits of the new economy.

TIMELINE:

2021: COP26 in Glasgow - countries agree to establish a dialogue on loss and damage.

2022: Trade Unions Just Transition Pavilion was set up at COP27

2022: COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh - countries agree to establish a new fund to help developing countries address loss and damage.

2023: Trade unions secure a "Just Transition Work Programme" at COP28, the first of its kind.

2023: COP28 in Dubai - expected to finalize details of the new fund.

Our Delegation will be advocating on the following:

- **Finalize details of the new loss and damage fund**, including how it will be funded and how it will be administered.
- Ensure that the **fund is accessible to all developing countries**, including small island nations and least developed countries.
- Ensure that the fund takes into **account the needs of Indigenous peoples**.
- Widen the conversation to incorporate loss and damage, including non-economic loss and damage, faced by Indigenous peoples in all regions.
- Prioritize funding to solutions that build climate resilience over time and recognize that nature-based climate action can increase the efficacy of future solutions for addressing losses and damage.
- Ensure that developing countries will receive adequate support for the readiness and capacity- building needed to quickly access loss and damage finance — and implement solutions to address loss and damage while building resilience.
- **A Just Transition** during the Phase-Out of Fossil Fuels.