

## RINGOS Statement at SBSTA Opening 1 Dec. 2015

Delivered by Marilyn Averill, University of Colorado at Boulder

The RINGOs are looking beyond Paris and identifying roles that we can play in taking action on climate change, regardless of the agreement reached here at COP 21. Our members study, write, talk, and teach about all aspects of climate change. We specialize not just in knowledge production, but also in the communication, application, and evaluation of knowledge, and in its use to develop projects, technologies, policies, and strategies to make the world better.

As researchers and educators, we look forward to partnering with developing countries to build capacities and research collaborations. But we do not plan to do this alone. We expect to work with and through SBSTA and other groups within the UNFCCC, as well as with the IPCC and other organizations. We also plan to partner with other civil society constituencies and their members so that we can combine our skills, knowledge, contacts, and resources to make all of our efforts more effective. We have researchers who would like to partner with BINGOs to explore how best to introduce new technologies, improve enabling environments, and train local users. The TUNGOs can help us to identify areas where education and training can help to build a workforce more capable of facing the challenges of tomorrow. We would like to promote connections between researchers and local authorities to match skills and knowledge with local needs in adaptation planning. We want to work with governments at all levels to produce policies that protect against climate change, and that create enabling environments to attract financing for climate and development projects. We would like to do a better job of identifying opportunities for young researchers throughout the world to participate in educational programs that will help them to address the challenges of climate change. We have members interested in working with farmers on building capacities relating to agriculture and food production. Some of us work with indigenous people to share our knowledge to increase local capacities to protect homes, cultures, and livelihoods; and to spread indigenous knowledge to other communities. We want to combine forces with the environmental community to expand our knowledge about climate change and identify areas where better communication and education can help institutions and communities to effectively mitigate against and adapt to climate change. And we want to work with women and gender groups to use education and policy change to empower women to act on climate change.

Regardless of the agreement reached at COP 21, we need to think beyond Paris to build communities that are more resilient to the changes that we know are coming. So today the RINGOs invite the other constituencies to collaborate with us across boundaries to build capacities and identify other ways to mitigate against and improve resistance to the adverse impacts of climate change. We look forward to working with you.