



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **COP-28 in Dubai**

### **Mother Earth Mentioned in COP 28 Decisions: A Step Forward**

Dubai, December 13, 2023- At the close of the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 28), the Parties adopted a decision that "[r]ecalls the 13th preambular paragraph of the Paris Agreement, which notes the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth, and notes the importance for some of the concept of 'climate justice' when taking action to address climate change;".

According to the International Observatory for the Rights of Nature (IORN), this is a breakthrough, as for the first time, Mother Earth is mentioned in the provisions on non-market-based approaches promoted in the *Paris Agreement*.

This breakthrough is the result of the leadership of the Bolivian delegation, which proposed originally that the text read as follows : "Recognizes the importance of strengthening the rights of Mother Earth and Mother Earth centric approaches in the context of the identification, development and implementation of non-market-based approaches;".

"IORN would have liked Bolivia's initial proposal to have been endorsed by all the delegations meeting in Dubai, since an ecocentric, rights-based approach is more conducive to the implementation of actions aimed at establishing harmonious and complementary relationships between populations and Nature. It would have done more to promote the sustainability of all living beings and their communities, and to avoid the commodification of Mother Earth's environmental functions", said Yenny Vega Cardenas, President of IORN.

"Nearly a year after the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15), in which the rights of Nature were enshrined, COP 28 should, for the sake of coherence, also have taken into account and recognized the rights of Nature and the rights of Mother Earth", added Inès Benadda, Vice President of IORN.

"IORN intends to follow developments on the fundamental issue of recognizing the rights of Nature, and to take part in the debates at COP 29, scheduled to take place in Baku, Azerbaijan from 11 to 22 November 2024 ", concluded Daniel Turp, Chairman of IORN's Board of Directors.

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