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Presentations	Session 4.1	<i>The politics of forest governance: understanding power and global complexity.</i>

Abstract Session 4.1 – Politics of Indigeneity: Indigenous engagements with the EU-Honduras Voluntary Partnership Agreement.

This paper analyses engagement by indigenous organisations with the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the European Union and Honduras. The FLEGT VPA agreement is aimed at the governing of bilateral timber supply chains between the EU and Honduras through legality verification and licensing of timber products. In addition, it contains elements aimed at ‘improving forest governance’ by increasing transparency and rule of law in the forest sector and through the organisation of multi-stakeholder dialogues. Engagement by indigenous actors has been considerable but not without contention: while most indigenous groups have constructively worked with the VPA in an attempt to advance indigenous rights, the Garífuna organisation OFRANEH (Organización Fraternal Negra de Honduras) and the Lenca organisation COPINH (Consejo Cívico de Organizaciones Populares e Indígenas de Honduras) have criticised the VPA as a neoliberal and neocolonial project following logics of profit based on ‘green capitalism’ over nature conservation and the needs of indigenous communities. This paper sheds a light on this schism from a discursive perspective, asking how different indigenous actors (1) interpret and (2) reinforce or contest VPA discourses on timber trade, deforestation, and authority over natural resources. The research is based on a literature review, a document analysis of advocacy materials and social media posts by the various indigenous organisations and federations, and online interviews to be conducted in December 2020 – March 2021.