Plenary Statement of Indigenous Peoples’ Caucus

28 April 2024

Thank you chair!

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, and ladies and gentlemen

Aaniin, Clarity Smoke ndishinikaas, mkwa ndoodem. Birdtail Sioux First Nation nda-dbendaagos, Alderville First Nation megwaa ndidaa. Anishinaabe-Oyate kwe ndaaaw. Hello, my name is Clarity Smoke. I stand with the bear clan, and I am both Dakota and Anishinaabe. I am a youth delegate with the Society of Native Nations and the Indigenous Peoples’ Caucus.

Indigenous Peoples’ Caucus would like to thank all the delegates and also acknowledge the hard work of the delegates on streamlining of the texts of the revised zero draft for facilitating and framing the negotiations in a systematic way. We have the following points that need to be respectfully included in the treaty.

- Reaffirm the commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and ILO Convention 169 across the treaty.
- Guarantee of taking concrete, just, and decolonial actions to reduce plastic production at the source (fossil fuel and resource extraction) complying with mandatory due diligences of Free Prior Informed and Consent (FPIC), Environmental Impact Assessment, and Socio-cultural Impact Assessments through full lifecycle.
- Guarantee the human rights, health, safety and well being, and environmental justice from extraction of resources for production to disposal of the plastic wastes.
- Ensure direct and equitable access to financial and technical resources to Indigenous Peoples along with their meaningful representation in all economic and political decision-making and implementations processes and levels.
- Ensure full, effective, and meaningful participation of the Indigenous Peoples across the development of the national plan of action and its effective implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.
- Guarantee the rights to know, access to information and remedies relating to the health and safety of humans and the environment without any conspiratorial confidentiality.
- Recognize the Indigenous Peoples-led transition away from plastics because Indigenous Knowledge, innovations, technologies, and skills have non-plastics substitutes that are
environmentally feasible, viable, practical, manageable and sustainable as the best solutions to the pollution.

- Recognizing the special vulnerabilities of Arctic Indigenous Peoples¹ and their regions and that of Indigenous Peoples of the Pacific who are on the receiving end of microplastics in their sensitive ocean ecosystems, resulting in a food insecurity crisis.

Lastly, we strongly urge that the treaty must ensure legally binding safeguards that can keep the human, ecology and environment healthy and safe for future generations rather than promoting extractions of the resources and pollutants.

Thank you - In Indigenous Language

¹ Referenced in p.4 of Preamble of the Stockholm Convention Persistent Organic Pollutants Treaty