

International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Plastics

Opening Plenary Statement – August 5, 2025

Thank you, Mr. Chair

My name is Abraham Francis, Kanienkehaka, and I speak on behalf of the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Plastics, the representative voice of Indigenous Peoples within these negotiations.

We are disappointed in the absence of meaningful references to and affirmation of the rights of Indigenous Peoples with the Chair's Text, and propose immediate action to address this critical oversight.

We call on States to:

- Affirm and actively promote Indigenous Peoples' rights, including our right to self-determination, ensuring the full, effective, equitable and direct participation of Indigenous Peoples in decision-making and implementation of the Treaty, as collective rights holders, not to be conflated with other stakeholders as affirmed within the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Strong measures across the full life cycle including phasing down fossil fuel extraction and production of plastics and chemicals
- Centre human health, planet health, and justice for all harmed communities across the plastic lifecycle, including just transition and development and implementation of the national action plan
- Establish financial mechanisms to ensure justice, and enable just and equitable transition
- Establish an independent expert advisory body to inform Treaty implementation that ensures the equitable and ethical participation of Indigenous Peoples and knowledge holders.

For millennia, Indigenous Peoples have lived our lives in balance with the natural world, establishing and practicing non-toxic, truly circular, and life-giving systems. Our ancestral wisdom and knowledge systems offer vital solutions to the plastics crisis including other environmental crises, addressing its entire life cycle from extraction to disposal.

Thank you.