

**INC-4 Plenary Opening Statement - Indigenous Peoples Caucus
Ottawa, Canada - April 23, 2024 - Cedar Smoke**

Thank you, Mr. Chair

My Anishinaabe name is Ogima Geeziko Kwe. I am here representing the Indigenous Peoples Caucus. I descend from Asungyung Anishinaabe. These negotiations are convening on unceded, unsurrendered stolen land of the Algonquin Anishinaabe territory. We carry the legacies of our ancestors and we equally shoulder the responsibility for future generations.

Indigenous worldviews understand that people are not separate from the environment and that the wellness of nature is inextricably connected to our own wellbeing and survival, and because of that we live purposefully and carefully and bear responsibility as caretakers and protectors. Our Indigenous knowledge systems and ways of living are well positioned to lead negotiations towards an ambitious and effective plastics treaty that is just and addresses the full impacts of plastic pollution and the climate crisis it exacerbates. Let us also acknowledge the special vulnerabilities of the Pacific and Arctic Indigenous Peoples who are at the receiving end of microplastics, affecting our food sovereignty and security.

We therefore urge Parties to:

- Reaffirm the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), particularly Article 3 on self-determination, human rights, the right to information, participation, and our rights to free prior and informed consent.
- Accurately ensure the use of the terminologies 'Indigenous Peoples' and 'Indigenous Knowledge' are consistent with UNDRIP.
- Facilitate the development of national implementation plans that ensure a just transition through equitable and responsible resourcing and partnering with Indigenous Peoples and other vulnerable groups to end plastic pollution.

Lastly, we urge policymakers to make decisions that ensure our future generations can live and thrive as our ancestors did.

Chi Miigwech