Second Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an International legally binding instrument on Plastic Pollution, including in the marine environment
29 May – 2 June 2023 / Paris France

Agenda item 4: Preparation of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment
Monday, 29 May 2023

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor as indigenous peoples’ representative.

My contribution is focused on four key points:

- The first one is to show the increasing of plastic pollution, toxic and chemical products in the world.
- Second I underline how indigenous peoples are experiencing till to lose their lives progressively and their economic condition is treated meaningfully;
- Thirdly, I focus my intervention on the lack of attention of the multilateral and bilateral institutions as well as private sectors to tackle this issue and show how they can manage to reduce the negative impact;
- Finally, I have to dress the recommendations regards the governments, and private sectors, as well as indigenous peoples in order to conduct common actions for this matter of humanity.

On first point, in the world as in Africa, the plastic pollution is a rather new but exponentially growing phenomenon. Annual global plastic production has exploded over the past decades, going from some 1.5 million metric tons (MT) in 1950 to an astonishing 390.7 million metric tons in 2021, marking an annual increase of four percent.

The negative impacts are multiple because the lands, lakes and forests which constitute the essential environment nature for indigenous peoples are affected and their lives, living conditions face the big problem decreasing the enjoyment of the economic, social and cultural as well as the civil and political rights.

After this, we underline the toxic and chemical products that the private sectors and multilateral and bilateral institutions continue to produce without taking the measures
to end them in the context to protect the lives of the indigenous peoples because they are leveraging the economic benefit more than the health of humanity.

Chair, the increasing of waste plastics and other organic matters are one of the critical issues of humanity included indigenous peoples. Thus, financial institutions play key role to limit by financing the companies under the condition of innovating the consumption products of no pollutant. I highlight that indigenous peoples are the first to be affected by the negative impacts of the type of pollutions caused by the companies at the world.

The recommendations:
- Regards governments, I appeal to them to have one voice during the negotiation for taking the commitment to eliminate plastics and other harmful products;
- It is also crucial to apply national laws limiting the introduction of plastic and other products contributing the pollution;
- At the International community, private sectors, and multilateral and bilateral institutions, I appeal to them to dress the roadmap after this session of international negotiation on plastic to show their responsibility based on the normative framework to eliminate plastics and other products harmful in the indigenous peoples;
- To support the efforts of Indigenous peoples’ organizations and to reinforce cooperation with Indigenous peoples in order to address the Indigenous peoples' issues facing the negative impact of plastics by also improving their living conditions.

Finally, in that regard, indigenous peoples call all international community for these points:
- To be involved to continue to be supported at all process to contribute fully on the issues concerning indigenous peoples;
- To initiate with multi-stakeholders the common action plan in order to end the plastic and other harmful products.
- To set up the protection measures (mechanism of indigenous peoples within the UNEP protecting indigenous peoples) face the negative impacts of plastic pollutions and other harmful.

Thank you Chair.

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