Kai mak+i it+o

Thank you Mr President for the floor,

My name is Lena Estrada Añokazi, representative of Indigenous Peoples in the Major Groups Facilitating Committee of UNEP and I belong to the Uitoto M+n+ka Indigenous People. I was born in the heart of the Colombian Amazon, I am the daughter of tobacco, coca, and sweet yuca. My traditional name is Juzikuri.

I greet you on behalf of my sisters and brothers from Indigenous Nations around the world. From Tierra del Fuego in the south of Argentina and Chile, where my grandparents safeguard, manage, and defend biodiversity to the "flying rivers" in the Amazon. From the Andean Indigenous territories that give birth to and protect water and life in the highlands. I greet you on behalf of the Indigenous Nations of Central and North America, up to the Arctic Circle, whose traditional territories, culture, and heritage have been impacted and devastated in the name of corporate and personal interests. I greet you on behalf of the Indigenous Nations in Africa, who have been displaced in the name of the so-called "conservation." From the Horse People of the Russian steppes, whose rights have not been recognized and continue to be violated in many ways, I greet you. On behalf of the wise brothers and sisters of Asia, who have taught us great lessons of bravery and courage, I greet you. I also greet you on behalf of the Indigenous Nations of Aoretoa (New Zealand), who safeguard and protect the Pacific Ocean.

I come before you bringing words of life, words that are sweet and refreshing, words of counsel and abundance, of love and wisdom, words of health. We offer them from our thoughts so that you may not continue to make mistakes, so that you may make the best decisions for us, for our children, but also for your own.

Indigenous Peoples and Nations live in harmony with Mother Earth based on highly sophisticated indigenous norms and knowledge systems. These have been the result of our close and reciprocal relationship with Mother Nature that predate the existence of States. We seek guidance from our elders to avoid mistakes and to live in harmony with nature. However, we observe that society often makes mistakes and when seeking for our advise it is too late. We have been warning the world, the states, about the effects that industrial activities have on life and the planet. Once again, we ask to be heard and involved as nations administering our territories.

Climate change, the excessive and uncontrolled loss of biodiversity, extreme floods and droughts, and plastic pollution and its consequences are the ways in which Mother Earth and the spirits speak to us, demanding and holding us accountable for not acting properly, for not following the natural and spiritual laws.

Here is our advice to you within the framework of INC-2: please do not make mistakes, listen to Mother Nature:

• Indigenous knowledge systems should be considered on an equal footing with scientific knowledge and effectively incorporated into intersessional work.

• We call for the recognition of an Indigenous advisory body within the INC, an Indigenous Caucus, and the need for effective guarantees of participation.

• We call for the expansion of the mandate of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples to cover the sessions and intercessions of the plastics treaty.
• We urge non-regression in territorial rights that threaten Indigenous Peoples and prioritize the interests of large petrochemical companies and their extractive processes.

• We urge the incorporation of obligations to reduce plastic production as a key measure to protect our health and the environment in the Zero Draft.

• Major plastic-producing companies must acknowledge the impacts of their activities on Indigenous Territories and our populations, as well as provide financial contributions for reparations.

• Local research should be promoted to provide real data on the depth of the impacts that plastic pollution has on the health of Indigenous Peoples and Mother Nature.

• Parties are requested to include representatives of Indigenous Peoples within their delegations.

• Gender equity should be guaranteed in all participation mechanisms of the INC.

Thank you very much,