



SBSTTA 23

Montreal, Canada 25 - 29 November 2019

Closing statement

Thank you, Chair,

Indigenous and traditional knowledge, systems, innovations, practices and technologies nurtured and passed down for generations within indigenous peoples lands, waters and territories have contributed to the fulfilment of the objectives of the Convention. This is supported by the evidences contained in the IPBES Global Assessment, IPCC Report on Land Use, and the Local Biodiversity Outlooks as complementary to the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

These knowledges should be valued, given the same respect and considered as useful and necessary as other forms of knowledge. Indigenous peoples and local communities' collective action should be recognized, respected and supported to secure our lands, waters, territories and resources to mitigate climate change impacts that enhance the conservation and use of biodiversity thereby reversing biodiversity loss.

Our rights as indigenous peoples and local communities should be central in all the discussion, decision, and actions relating to processes that impact us such as climate change, biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We are alarmed with the increasing violent attacks against the criminalization of indigenous peoples, women and youth defending their rights to their lands, waters, territories and resources. Environmental human rights defenders should be protected.

We are disappointed that guidance on informing the the post-2020 scientific and technical evidence base did not reference the evidence base of the Local Biodiversity Outlook or community-based monitoring and information systems as sources for evidence-based decision making. We appreciate that there is awareness the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities should be recognized and that our participation is encouraged, but our evidence should be included. We thank those parties that understand that our evidence and values are important pathways to the transformative change that we will need to adapt to the challenges ahead of us and to achieving living in harmony with nature.

We welcome the opportunities we have in this meeting as we were able to speak with the Bureau and made interventions during the contact group discussions. We wish that this manifestation of the enhanced participation modalities and the integrity of the decisions of the Ad hoc Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions continues and permanently applies to other bodies.

As indigenous peoples, we are the rights holders and have equal rights to determine our development. We remind Parties that States are duty bearers and part of their obligation is to respect our rights as we craft our future together. We look forward for our full and effective participation towards the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.