Closing Statement

Buorre eahket buohkaide. Thank you Mr. co-chair, I am speaking on behalf of the IIFB.

Indigenous peoples and local communities have always strived to live harmoniously with nature through the practice of our traditional knowledge and collective actions and as partners in the fulfilment of the objectives of the Convention. For us, any global plan for biodiversity should be informed by nature and culture, and their inextricable links.

We welcome the wide recognition and overwhelming support from Parties and others, to the importance of IPLCs and traditional knowledge, in the development and implementation of the post-2020 Framework. It is essential that the recognition, promotion, revitalization and ethical use of traditional knowledge should be explicitly reflected across all levels. It is necessary that the full and effective participation of IPLC be considered of paramount importance, as one mean of implementation. We look forward to seeing the same level of support and openness for partnership throughout the rest of the process.

Parties have welcomed Local Biodiversity Outlooks (LBO) as complementary to the Global Biodiversity Outlook. The key messages from the LBO 2 provide additional relevant guidance for deciding on the goals and targets to complement GBO 5. The potential role and contribution of the community-based monitoring and information systems, done by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, women and youth, should be recognized in monitoring.

We reiterate that the post-2020 framework should be developed from a human rights-based approach, consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This should include the principles of equity, transparency, respect and recognition of indigenous peoples’ territories, rights and systems of knowledge, with relevant objectives, achievable targets, measurable indicators, as well as monitoring and compliance mechanism. We stress that the framework must be able to protect Indigenous peoples’ human rights defenders.

As IPLCs are central actors in all the processes leading to the development and implementation of the framework, we echo the concern of Parties and other actors of IPLCs not being able to participate and raise our voices in the many thematic consultations that will be convened. To support our effective participation in the preparation of these important recommendations, we invite Parties to contribute to the voluntary fund.

In closing, we are all in agreement that transformational change is needed to achieve the 2050 Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature. IPLCs are committed to take part in the preparation of the post 2020 framework in collaboration and partnership with the parties and others, for the better future of humanity.

Thank you, Mr. co-chair. Olu giitu.