Plenary Intervention, June 19th

Thank you, Chair.

Shé:kon sewakwé:kon. Konwaiatanón:we's iónt iats tánon Kanienkehá:ka nitiató:ten.

We would like to take this moment to express our sincere gratitude to the countries that have shown their support for the rights of Indigenous Peoples throughout these sessions. Your recognition of our inherent rights and your willingness to ensure that our voices are meaningfully and respectfully included in this process are deeply appreciated.

We especially thank the State delegations who advocated to uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; to secure protections for Indigenous knowledge; our full and effective participation; as well as a human rights-based approach, in the documents of this panel. This inclusion is not symbolic, it is essential. It affirms our status as distinct rights holders under international law, and it acknowledges the invaluable contributions of Indigenous knowledge, leadership, and lived experience in addressing the global crises of pollution, chemicals, and waste; issues which are disproportionately affecting Indigenous Peoples, other frontline and fenceline communities, women, children, and future generations.

We respectfully and firmly reiterate our call for the establishment of an Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee within the structure of this science policy panel. Such a mechanism is necessary to ensure that Indigenous Peoples, as the experts of Indigenous knowledge and Indigenous science, are included not only in name, but have full and effective participation through a permanent, resourced, and rights-based space to shape the implementation and decision-making of this panel's work.

We hope that moving forward we will continue to have the support of the panel to work together in the spirit of collaboration to address the triple planetary crises by ensuring safeguards for upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and protecting human health and the environment.

Thank you.