

International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Plastics

LETTER TO THE INC BUREAU ON UPHOLDING INDIGENOUS AND OBSERVER PARTICIPATION

18 March 2025

To: Members of the INC Bureau

The International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Plastics (IIPFP) wishes to express our serious concerns regarding the lack of transparency and restricted participation of Indigenous rights holders, not to be confused with stakeholders, and observers in the INC process to develop a legally binding Global Plastics Treaty. The lack of space in contact group meeting rooms followed by days of closed-door meetings in Busan undermines the rights of Indigenous Peoples and civil society to meaningfully engage in this process.

As an independent group of Indigenous experts and representatives, the IIPFP works to uphold and centre Indigenous Peoples and our rights, knowledge, solutions, and leadership in all Global Plastics Treaty processes, including negotiations and implementation phases. Our members have been actively engaged with the Global Plastics Treaty since UNEA 5.2.

As the INC process for the Global Plastics Treaty has progressed, the conflict of interest displayed by the plastics industry and petrostates has become extremely problematic and puts the treaty-making process' entire democratic governance system at risk, as well as the eventual success of this Treaty. This is especially concerning for Indigenous Peoples who are rights holders on the frontline of the plastic pollution crisis. Indigenous and other frontline groups have been focused on the crux of the issue prior to and throughout negotiations by consistently calling for production reduction, an end to the extraction of raw feedstocks (fossil fuels), and ambitious system transformation that focuses on waste prevention over limited and often toxic waste management systems.

Indigenous Peoples face multiple barriers in the INC process for developing a Global Plastics Treaty. We often come with very limited resources to cover for our travel, everyday expenses, and time at these negotiations. In Busan, the struggle to fund our participation was further compounded by the lack of available meeting spaces, which we had to secure ourselves at a great expense. Unfortunately, a dedicated meeting space for the duration of INC-5 was not made available to the IIPFP by the INC Secretariat or by the host country, despite our many requests conveying this as an essential need for our effective participation in the process. We call upon the Bureau to ensure that a meeting room is provided to the IIPFP for the duration of the remaining formal negotiations and subsequent implementation meetings as a minimum standard for the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the process. We urge the Bureau to also push for funding to enable the participation of Indigenous Peoples from all seven socio-cultural regions recognized by the UN.

The full, meaningful, and just participation of Indigenous Peoples during the INC process is both a right and a critical need as we collectively identify and implement evidence-based solutions to end plastic pollution. It is therefore essential that the INC Bureau ensures that all rights holders and observers are able to fully and meaningfully participate in all INC negotiations and implementation processes.

Yours sincerely,

International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Plastics

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