

Thank you madame chair,

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

First, we would like to thank the people of Uruguay for the warm welcome we have received in your beautiful lands.

We, Indigenous Peoples maintain deep connections to our territories, and we are here to ensure that the science policy panel addresses the issues of chemicals, waste, and pollution in a way that is inclusive of those most disproportionately affected by these issues, including Indigenous Peoples and other frontline and fenceline communities. We are participating in this process as rightsholders to remind delegates that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples must be upheld in all science policy panel bodies, committees, assessments, implementation, financial mechanisms, and other deliverables.

We are very disappointed that there have been efforts here to push terminology in this panel that forces the conflation of Indigenous Peoples with other groups. We call upon all states to ensure that the science policy panel uses language that is inclusive of all groups and peoples, while also safeguarding the unique and distinct rights and circumstances that we possess. Indigenous Peoples face many barriers to participate in multilateral negotiations, including limited resources. In these spaces, we are often forced to fight for these very important basic safeguards of our unique rights to self-determination enshrined in international law. This takes our attention away from other important messages and knowledge we bring from our communities and nations to address the issues impacting us. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the states who have supported moving beyond using problematic conflating language in this panel.

In conclusion, once again, we call upon delegates to support our formal request of establishing an Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee as an integral part of this science policy panel, to ensure the mainstreaming of Indigenous Peoples' rights; protections for Indigenous knowledge systems; and ensuring the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples who are the experts of our knowledge and science. We look forward to continuing to work with you all on these and other important issues in the new Intergovernmental science policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution.