

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Vice-Chair UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Statement during national statement segment in UNEA-6.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Congratulations on all the resolutions that have been adopted.

But as an Indigenous woman I say that we cannot pick and chose what we want and postpone most of the resolutions and decisions that the world needs for the better implementation at the national level later.

Later means never.

We cannot afford that because we are facing crises, and everyone will know those kind of crises.

So, of course maybe not here, sure. But you have an exceptional opportunity. This year with the three COPs that are happening and with other momentum from now until December. And we all know that. We must ensure that in those events that we be exceptional people who can take right decisions.

We must go home and work with exceptional people who are the Indigenous Peoples with our exceptional knowledge.

If you want to do something, you can start working at home by better implementing all the policies and decisions that you have on climate change, biodiversity and on land.

By doing so you should respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, recognize our knowledge that play a crucial role. And you can also involve the indigenous peoples. In all the decisions you are making at the national level. We can implement it right if you do it right with us. So ladies and gentlemen and chair, the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples is very important here at UNEP and outside. We need to respect the Indigenous Peoples human rights defenders, and we need to implement the rights of the right people. Not tomorrow, but today.

Thank you so much.