

Distinguished delegates, esteemed colleagues,

My name is Frankie Orona with Society of Native Nations representing the Indigenous Peoples Major Group. We are concerned by the glaring conflicts of interest, inadequate participation, and insufficient safeguards for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Knowledge within this critical process.

We witness corporations and governments, whose actions have historically and continue to disproportionately harm biodiversity, wielding undue influence in negotiations. Their vested interests threaten to undermine ambitious targets and prioritize profit over the well-being of our planet and its peoples.

Despite our central role in safeguarding 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity, Indigenous Peoples remain marginalized in decision-making spaces. We are tokenized, our knowledge is appropriated, and our free, prior, and informed consent is routinely disregarded.

Furthermore, existing safeguards for Indigenous Knowledge are inadequate. Our knowledge is not mere data to be exploited; it is the living legacy of millennia, of sustainable coexistence with nature. Without robust safeguards, it risks being commodified and misappropriated, perpetuating historical injustices.

We respectfully request action on:

1. Safeguarding the panel from Conflicts of Interest.
2. Full and effective Indigenous Participation in the panel.
3. Safeguards for Indigenous Knowledge.

In the name of sound management of chemicals, waste, pollution, and prevention in Indigenous Land, Territories and Resources (LTR) must not be impacted. Any actions relating to sound management of chemicals, waste and, pollution and prevention must abide by the due diligence of the environmental safeguards and rights of the Indigenous Peoples.

With that said, We want to propose and request the Establishment of an Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) for the Science Policy Panel of the Open-Ended Working Group 3 (OEWG-3)

The Open-Ended Working Group 3 (OEWG-3) is critical in shaping international science policies and programs. However, the lack of meaningful inclusion and participation of Indigenous Peoples in these processes has resulted in policies that overlook or disregard Indigenous knowledge systems, perspectives, and priorities.

To rectify this, we propose the establishment of an Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) within the Science Policy Panel of the OEWG-3. This committee will serve as a dedicated platform for Indigenous voices and expertise, ensuring our equitable participation and contribution to science policy development and implementation.

TO Ensure

- Ethical Imperative.
- Knowledge Diversity.
- Policy Relevance.
- International Commitments to The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

The future of our planet hangs in the balance. We cannot afford to ignore the voices and knowledge of those who have been its stewards for millennia. We urge you to take bold action to address these critical issues and to work in true partnership with Indigenous Peoples to forge a just and sustainable future for all.

Thank you.