

TO:

INC Bureau Members:

Ms. Juliet Kabera

Mr. Ndiaye Cheikh Sylla

Mr. Hiroshi Ono

Mr. Mohammed Albarrak

Mr. Harry Liiv

Ms. Irma Gurguliani

H.E. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra Velasquez

Ms. Asha Challenger

Ms. Johanna Lissinger-Peitz

Ms. Larke Williams

CC: Ambassador Vayas Valdivieso, INC Chair; Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Executive Secretary of the INC Secretariat; Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP; Foreign Ministry Republic of Ecuador

Call for assurance of the meaningful participation of Stakeholders and in full support of the letter sent by the Indigenous Peoples and Their Communities Major Group on February 14, 2025

Honorable Bureau Members,

We, the UNEP Women's Major Group, write to express our deep concern regarding the intentional deprivation of Indigenous Peoples' and Stakeholders participation in the INC-5 negotiations in Busan, Republic of Korea. We stand in full support of the [letter sent by the Indigenous Peoples and Their Communities Major Group on February 14, 2025](#), and echo their urgent call.

The participation of diverse Stakeholders is essential to ensure a robust, science-driven, and evidence-based comprehensive outcome that upholds the principles of transparency and inclusivity. Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992) affirms the importance of all stakeholders' participation in environmental decision-making spaces at all relevant levels of governance. Further, Agenda 21 calls on all UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and forums to promote the role of NGOs in the 'policy design, decision-making, implementation, and evaluation' of international policies. However the stakeholders during the INC-4, the intersessional period and INC-5 were effectively excluded from much of the proceedings and there were scant opportunities for observer interventions in plenaries and during INC 5 was either limited due to space issues in contact groups or to 'closed room' informal negotiations.

Considering that the current organizational framework and transparency measures are insufficient to effectively advance the negotiation process, and the lack of advancement for stakeholders engagement we respectfully request a System Approach of the INC process.

We urge the Bureau to discuss this matter in the next Bureau meeting and to take necessary action to guarantee the meaningful participation of stakeholders at INC process, and recognition, respect and protection of the Rights of Stakeholders.

We look forward to positive action by the bureau.

We stand ready to keep working to support the INC process as you consider how to move through entrenched positions to an ambitious binding treaty.

Sincerely,

Co-Facilitators,

UNEP Women's Major Group

Frezer Yeheyis

Dalia Márquez