

Stakeholder consultation on the preparation of the UN 2023

Presented by Tania Eulalia Martinez Cruz

Good morning, everyone; I am presenting some key messages on behalf of the Informal Reference group on water and Indigenous Issues that resulted from the Dushanbe Second Water Process.

1. We, Indigenous Peoples, have been committed for centuries to preserving water because it supports all ways of life and is essential, especially in the era of the climate crisis, for the well-being of our planet and ecosystems, as we safeguard 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity. We understand that water is more than just a resource and we advocate for a systemic and inclusive approach to addressing water insecurity.
2. We need the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples to draw on our innovative and time-tested practises in designing policies that affect water security. This means ensuring the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the mid-review of the UN-Water Decade in New York, 2023 and linked policy processes by providing financial mechanisms to both document their innovative practices and bring their voices to the discussions.
3. We also need to support the capacity building of Indigenous peoples so we can scale up our game changing solutions to address the world's needs while fully acknowledging Indigenous Peoples for their contributions and intellectual property.
4. We must ensure that Indigenous People's rights are respected as those at the forefront of water conservation, and we need to ensure Free, Prior, and Informed consent and stop water and land grabbing.
5. Lastly, we must support intergenerational knowledge transfer and recognize the key role that indigenous women and youth play in maintaining sustainable water management practices.

In the end, we have a single request: work with us to develop the recognition of Indigenous Peoples role in Water Security and help us scale-up and share our time-tested and innovative water management practices to address global crises.