

Hahom, thank you Chair, for this opportunity.

For many Indigenous Peoples around the world, the ocean is not a resource, but the source.

UNOC3 is meant to build political will toward a healthy and sustainable Ocean. If Indigenous Peoples are not visibly and vocally part of this moment, the next phase of ocean agreements will start on the wrong foundation.

Indigenous Peoples are Peoples. We rights holders, not stakeholders. Our full and effective participation will legitimize this process.

The role of knowledge here is key. We have heard many States speak about incorporating Indigenous knowledge, but we have not heard many promoting Indigenous governance. We cannot continue to be invited to share stories while our structures are ignored.

BBNJ needs political energy behind ratification. That energy cannot be generated by repeating the same formulas. If this treaty is to be truly global, it must be visibly inclusive. That begins with Indigenous Peoples.

The Plastics Treaty, WTO fisheries subsidies, and BBNJ all intersect within our territories. They affect our economies, our food systems, and our governance. These agreements will not hold if they ignore the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and human rights overall.

If there was sufficient space to share our perspectives formally, we could show you how Indigenous Peoples are not waiting for inclusion and are already governing. What we need now is recognition, not validation.

In closing, we continue to see the use soft language like traditional knowledge, local communities, and inclusion. The vaguer the commitments, the more exclusive the outcomes. If this conference is serious about partnerships, then the Rights of Indigenous rights must be named clearly and protected consistently.