

**CLOSING STATEMENT - INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS FORUM ON BIODIVERSITY (IIFB)  
AND INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S BIODIVERSITY NETWORK (IWBN)  
SHARM EL SHEIKH, EGYPT, 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2018**

Thank you, Madam President.

I am speaking on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network.

We would like to thank the Government of Egypt and peoples for their kind hospitality. The support provided for the Nature and Culture Summit contributed to a wider alliance for biodiversity conservation.

We are grateful to Parties and with the CBD Secretariat who supported our participation and proposals. We value the significance of the Voluntary Fund for allowing us to be part of the process, and count on your continued future support. We also express our gratitude to the CBD Alliance and the Global Youth Biodiversity Network for their solidarity.

We would like to thank the COP Bureau for meeting with us to ensure our full participation. Amongst others, we completed outstanding work under WG8j and proposed a roadmap for future work on traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use. For IPLC participation to be mainstreamed, we need to be able to make and follow up on our proposals in all modalities of CBD processes, including the plenaries, working groups and contact groups

Unfortunately, some hurtful and disrespectful words about us were made at COP14. We underline that indigenous peoples and local communities embody humanity's creative intelligence and wisdom in our care and love for Mother Earth. We are on the frontlines to protect the world's remaining biodiversity, many of our leaders sacrificed for the defence of human rights and environment.

With our traditional knowledge and practices, we have contributed and continue to contribute to the objectives of the convention. Indigenous women, in particular, are key holders, practitioners and transmitters of knowledge, and indigenous youth are the future citizens who take care of our planet. It is critical to support their visibility and participation in the entire CBD process.

We welcome decisions that include us in identifying impacts of and solutions to climate change. These decisions represent a key element for the post-2020 framework, as the period between 2020-2050 will be critical for ushering in radical transformations to be brought into harmony for the future of Mother Earth.

The recognition of our rights to lands, waters and cultural resources are necessary for enabling our ability to implement nature and culture-based approaches. Legal recognition of our customary land tenure systems ensures our continued contributions to the Strategic Plan and all Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

At many stages of this conference, the critical importance of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) was also addressed as a vital right in all efforts to preserve and mainstream biodiversity, including in difficult issues such as synthetic biology and LMOs. We thank parties who have been supporting us on having our voices heard on

these issues. We stand by our right that when we are affected, FPIC must be obtained, and every COP decision should respect that.

We are committed to take part in to the preparation of the post 2020 framework, as this commitment comes from our obligations with Mother Earth, our ancestors and future generations.

Thank you, Madam President!