



Opening Intervention
Virtual SB 2021
May 31, 2021

My name is Frank Ettawageshik from the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge and honour the passing of our dear friend, brother, colleague, and mentor Estebancio Castro-Diaz. As he makes his journey, we honour his extensive legacy for Indigenous Peoples worldwide. We are privileged to carry his spirit with us always.

Climate action cannot wait and no Party should use the virtual format of these sessions, amid concerns of internet connectivity, translation and time zones, as justification to delay urgent and transformative action. Considering current commitments, and assuming full and effective implementation, we are headed towards a 2.4 degrees world - a disaster for Indigenous Peoples and all of humanity.

We call on all major emitters to urgently commit to at least 50% GHG emission reduction by 2030. Climate action must be prioritized by COVID recovery packages, requiring real emissions reductions and not historically discredited and ineffective offsets and credits.

A successful, in-person COP requires a rapid and equitable distribution of vaccines globally instead of the current vaccine nationalism. The disparities of impact from COVID are an accelerated version of the disparities of climate change and it is those least responsible, Indigenous Peoples, who disproportionately suffer their effects.

It is imperative that the loss of food systems and small producer agricultural production that feed 70% of humanity and are essential elements of food sovereignty and food security for Indigenous Peoples, be positively addressed by the Koronivia dialogue. The dialogue should not be dominated by destructive agricultural transnational corporations. In addition, funding for loss and damage of indigenous food systems caused by climate change should be provided.

This session, above all, requires a focus on human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the discussion on Article 6. Our champions and supporters must also ensure that Social and Environmental Impacts are included in all discussion on Article 6.

We call on the Parties to give full force to human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples, in all areas of climate action. Full implementation of Paris rulebook guidelines, and safeguards is required for effective solutions to climate change including real solutions based on our relationship to the Natural

World and our full and effective participation in the development of NDCs and NAPs, as well as the development of climate targets, solutions, and policies.

We join the call with other like-minded Constituencies to emphasize: People Power, Climate Justice.

Miigwech.