

IIPFCC closing statement

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Pipigwa ododem. Waganakising n'doonjiba. Naakwegeshik n'diznikaz.

I am Frank Ettawageshik an Elder of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians from the Great Lakes region of North America, speaking on behalf of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change.

We appreciate the many supportive statements made by Parties today promoting the need for operationalization of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform.

We embrace the spirit of the Talanoa Dialogue and its recognition of the stories of all of us, States as well as non-parties on an equal footing, relating the realities of global warming and climate change to all of our communities. We hope that these stories and the empathy that they generate will assist these negotiations. As our elder Chief François Paulette reflected, climate change is a critical reality, a crisis of great proportion affecting all of humanity. Elder Paulette's advice when looking for solutions was "keep it simple."

We too call upon the states in whose hands Greenhouse Gas emission are, for a much greater ambition in their mitigation goals.

The Paris Agreement and decisions of the COPs reflect a universal belief that contributions of Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge can contribute to solutions to this crisis.

Although, like many Parties have stated today, we also are disappointed that these negotiations were unable to move the operationalization of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform forward, we recognize the good faith and enthusiasm of a great many states for the implementation. We rely on this good faith of parties for the implementation of the Facilitative Working Group that will make the Platform a reality. We expect States to continue this good faith in the negotiations in Katowice.

It is the reality of climate change that we must confront and overcome.

We wish to join in the thanks to Halldour for his years of service and we send best wishes for his retirement. Thanks also to all the chairs, co-chairs, facilitators, and to the secretariat for their dedicated service.

We conclude by acknowledging that we all are related and we live together on one earth and under one sky.

Thank you Mr. Chair.