



EUROPEAN UNION
Permanent Delegation to the United Nations Office
and other international organisations in Geneva

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

51st session

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

28 September 2022

EU statement

Mr. President,

I deliver this statement on behalf of the EU.

We thank Mr. Calí Tzay for his report and his presentation here today.

While the Special Rapporteur has previously addressed the importance of Indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge in other contexts, we welcome this first in-depth study dedicated specifically to the knowledge of Indigenous women. We share your interest in assessing the topic from a gender perspective in order to highlight the specific challenges faced by Indigenous women and girls, particularly women leaders, in retaining and revitalizing their role as knowledge keepers and teachers.

As the Special Rapporteur highlights, because of many Indigenous women's intimate relationship of respect, responsibility and interdependency with nature, their knowledge represents a great resource for environmental protection in various aspects, including in protecting biodiversity; achieving sustainable development; and in managing the risks and impacts of climate change.

It is a sad paradox that on the one hand, the crucial role played by Indigenous Peoples in preserving ecosystems and preventing deforestation – and thereby helping their communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change – has often been emphasised, for instance by the IPCC, while on the other hand, Indigenous Peoples, and especially Indigenous women and girls, are disproportionately and severely impacted by those very same effects of climate change through inter alia drought, desertification, flooding, and rising sea levels.

Mr. Calí Tzay, in your opinion; what can we learn from the knowledge of Indigenous women when it comes to combatting climate change?

Thank you.