

Talanoa closing

Thank you Mr. President,

My name is Alberto Saldamando of the Indigenous Environmental Network speaking on behalf of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC). We were pleased to dialogue frankly and honestly with Parties on the reality of climate change and the way forward.

It was apparent to us that many States, particularly Small Island States and Least Developed States, but including others, suffer the same catastrophic effects of climate change. We live in these States, and have done so for millennia. Our fate is their fate. It is a shared and difficult future.

Of primary concern is the disastrous effect of global warming on food sovereignty and food security. The destruction of the coral reefs, the melting of sea ice and glaciers, the rise in sea levels and salinization, severe drought and floods, hurricanes and typhoons, the deterioration of our Amazonian forests, are severely affecting our shared ability to provide the means of subsistence necessary for our survival, not only for Indigenous Peoples but for our co-habitants on this our Mother Earth.

We have hopes and expectations that the Traditional Knowledge Platform, in spite of the political difficulties we face in its implementation, will help to restore a healing balance between the needs of humanity and the needs of Mother Earth. We would hope that the Platform would demonstrate that we are not a liability to the States in which we live but a positive resource, a shared resource that we already share with you, that can assist the world in which we all live.

We expect that the dialogue on Agriculture will examine not only the contributions of Indigenous Peoples and subsistence agriculture to the food security of 70% of the world, but also examine industrialized agriculture and its negative effect on global warming and food security.

We would also hopefully expect that all parties realize that human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples are fundamental the well-being of all living within the state. We would hope and expect that parties would at least begin to realize that the observation and respect for the rights of Indigenous peoples is an important defense against catastrophic global warming.

The solidarity of States and Indigenous Peoples in the good faith implementation of the Traditional Knowledge Platform is an important first step in our joint struggle.

Omatkwiasin, We are all related.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.