

Statement - Tin Hinan Association - Sherry Pictou - Item 5(d)

My name is Sherry Pictou, I am Mi'kmaw and a District Chief from Mi'kmaki, in what is known today as Canada.

I am here on behalf of the *Ārramāt* project for Biodiversity Conservation and the Health and Well-being of Indigenous Peoples. *Ārramāt* is a concept spoken by the Tuareg (too a reg) people of the Sahel and Sahara regions that describes a state of well-being shared by the environment, animals, and humans. It equates to similar principles in Indigenous law and governance, inherent in many Indigenous languages around the world, that are derived from our relationship with lands/waters.

Indigenous women around the world play an important role in ensuring our well-being for present and for future generations through their harvesting and stewardship practices of natural ecosystems as sustainable sources of food, water and livelihoods, from which Indigenous knowledges are derived.

Yet, Indigenous women are increasingly having to defend their Indigenous and fundamental human rights by also defending and protecting ecosystems from unsustainable hyper intensive resource extraction projects on one hand, and conservation efforts that limit their access to food and livelihoods, on the other. Land and water-based practices, as well as the defense and protection efforts by Indigenous women, hold key lived knowledge that could potentially transcend and transform the patriarchal and colonial constraints of dominant scientific knowledge production.

For example, Indigenous women's knowledges could prevent the superficial use of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in environmental assessments for resource extraction projects as well as conservation practice. The *Ārramāt* project, which is global in scope, aims to achieve this by strengthening the "existing assets and capacities of Indigenous Partners, including those of diverse gender identities."

We therefore:

- Invite the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to collaborate with the [Ārramāt](#) project in ensuring the leadership and participation of Indigenous women in the "development, application, preservation and transmission of Scientific Knowledge" in a meaningful way, for example in the context of its current report.

- Recommend to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to include in the report on "The militarization of indigenous land: a human rights focus." a specific section regarding the triple violence of militarization of Indigenous lands on the environment, on Indigenous women and their knowledge.