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2nd Workshop on progress, challenges and opportunities related to identifying needs and accessing means of implementation for climate action in agriculture and food security, including sharing of best practices, June 8 2026

Presented on behalf of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) by Andrea Carmen, International Indian Treaty Council

Lios em Chaniabo. For Indigenous Peoples from all regions and ecosystems, our Food Security and Food Sovereignty are indivisible from our identities, cultures, biodiversity, the health and well-being of our Peoples and our inherent rights to our lands, waters and territories.

My Yaqui Indigenous People from the Sonora Desert of Arizona USA and Sonora Mexico have, since time immemorial, been desert farmers using drought resistant seeds and growing methods to preserve and protect the health of our soil, ground and River water. But like so many other Indigenous Peoples, colonization brought us land loss, denial of water rights, contamination by toxic pesticides and now climate change-induced drought, drastically undermining our original Food Security.

The United Nations estimates that over a million species are threatened with extinction due to habitat encroachment, extractive industries, agribusiness, environmental contamination and the climate crisis. Many of these threatened species are vital to our food systems and ways of life. The time-tested millennial knowledge, sciences and expertise we still practice includes water conservation, rematriation of original seeds, restoring degraded soils, weather prediction based on communications with the moon, insects and birds, removal of invasive species that deplete soil and water, protection of forests from fire threats, and removing dams that destroy our fisheries. Such examples of Indigenous expertise are recognized by the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage, among other bodies at the UNFCCC, a significant sign of progress.

However we are deeply concerned that some of the activities proposed by states and corporations in the name of Climate Change Mitigation, “Green Economy” and “Green Energy” include destructive activities such as mining of so-called transition minerals like lithium and uranium, further threatening our traditional food security and its sustaining ecosystems.

We were therefore very gratified by the adoption at COP 30 of the UAE Just Transition Pathways document. It affirmed in paragraph 12 (i) the importance of respecting Indigenous Peoples' rights to self-determination and free prior and informed consent, and included protections for Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact. Paragraph 18 also cited the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a key human rights standard for guiding Just Transition.

At SBSTA 64 we are working to secure full, formal and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in a new Just Transition Mechanism that includes safeguards to protect our rights and ways of life. We also call for Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and methods as sustainable food producers to be recognized as essential for transition away from industrial food production which causes 30% of the world greenhouse gasses.

Finally I highlight our key proposals for continuing the work of the Sharm El Sheik Joint Work Program through a new work program called the **“Climate Action Plan for Agriculture and Food Systems”** with stronger commitments for implementation and monitoring. Priorities could include: development of a finance mechanism for adaptation and Just Transition in agriculture and food systems; inclusion of this theme in NDCs, NAPs and the deforestation roadmap; pathways for phasing out pesticides, petrochemicals, mining and waste dumping in Indigenous territories; protection for rights of Indigenous small-scale farmers, fishers, pastoralists, hunters and gatherers; and affirming the role of Indigenous Peoples in biodiversity protection, including Indigenous women as native seed protectors.

We cannot allow the causes, impacts and false solutions to climate change to collapse Indigenous Food Systems. They are integral to our collective survival and provide vital sustainable models for planetary resilience. Their importance must be recognized, respected, and supported, along with our full and effective participation in all relevant policy discussions and decisions.

Thank you, Choque Utesia.