

Remarks at the US Leadership Summit on Climate

Session on Nature-based Solutions

Date: April 22

Archana Soreng, India

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My fellow young People following us online,

Johar

I would like to thank President Joe Biden, Mr. John F. Kerry, Presidential envoy on Climate, Secretary Deb Haaland, for their kind invitation to address this Leadership Summit on Climate on the theme of “Nature Based Solutions”.

We, Young People across the globe are at the Forefront of the Climate Justice Movement and have been advocating for Health of the Nature over Development at global, national and local levels.

Whether in the streets or decision-making spaces we are leading the way and holding our leaders accountable to achieve the goals of Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development. In the field of education, technology, science, law, art, Music, Fashion, Entertainment, Food, Sports and many more, we are making a difference through our skills, expertise and contributing to climate action.

We know this as Truth and we also know that you are aware, that we can play a crucial role in advocating for Nature Based Solutions. However, we are facing challenges and difficulties for the role we know, we can Lead.

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to share how we can move forward.

1. We need you, to prioritize protection and meaningful leadership of the Young People with the guiding principle of Intergenerational and Intersectional Equity while adopting Nature Based Solutions along with creating job opportunities for the Young People.
2. Mass Climate Education incorporating indigenous world view should be core to Nature Based Solutions.
3. Nature Based Solutions should recognize and support the traditional knowledge and practices of Indigenous Youth and promote their forest-based livelihood.
4. The support received from Young People particularly from the Marginalized and Indigenous Communities should not be taken for granted. Young People who are affected by Climate Crisis are on the Frontlines but not on the Front Page. Thus, we need you, the leaders to invest in adaptation, resilience and deliver on **Climate Finance Promise of \$1 Billion per year.**

Excellencies, many of my peers across the world have been targets of human rights violation and systematic racism. This HAS TO STOP.

Being an Indigenous Young Woman, at this leadership summit, I would like to emphasize that **WE ARE NOT MERE PART OF NATURE BUT WE ARE NATURE.** Nature is our source of identity, culture, language and tradition.

Nature Based Solutions can be effective, when our rights over our land, forest and territories are recognized and enforced and we are ensured the right to refuse so called developmental projects which adversely affect us.

Free prior and Informed Consent of us Indigenous, Traditional and Local Communities should be core to Nature Based Solutions and Climate Policies through a participatory and binding way.

Before I end my intervention, I would like to emphasize that Nature Based Solutions cannot be used as the substitute for emissions reductions. Countries should ramp up climate action and work towards **Net Zero Emission by 2030 and Not 2050** and ensure just transition in this process. Moreover, Nature Based Solution should not be marred with green washing and monoculture schemes.

Prioritizing justice and well-being of both nature and people should be the founding stone as we move forward from today.

I would like to end by saying that We Youth, offer our passion, zeal, commitment and expertise in order to work together with you. Ensure that we have a Seat at the Decisions Making Table. INCLUDE US, SUPPORT US, AND PROTECT US. We Need to Act Now