WHISPERS OF THE ANCESTORS:
HOW INDONESIA'S ADAT PEOPLES NURTURE THE EARTH

Yuli Prasetyo Nugroho[i]

Good afternoon Distinguish Ladies and Gentlemen, Brother and Sister,

I am Prasetyo
Deputy Director For Customary Forest, form Ministry Of Forestry Indonesia, the one and only Unit in Indonesia for customary Forest of Indigenous people proses.

Imagine a single nation speaking **718 different languages**, living across **76,655 villages**, and separated by deep oceans. Yet, they breathe as one. Today, I do not just bring you the voice of Indonesia as a modern state. I bring you the ancient whispers of our *Adat Law Community*—our Local Communities and Indigenous People. From the *Nagari* in the west to the *Ngata* in the east, we are a living proof that diversity is not our weakness; it is our greatest shield against the global climate crisis."

We bring concrete examples from Indonesia's rich traditional knowledge to this room:

- **First, the *Pangale* system** practiced by indigenous communities in Central Sulawesi—including the Ngata Toro, Lindu, and Wana Posangke, Hutan. This sophisticated forest zoning framework like sacred forests (*Pangale Kapal, Wana, Wana Ngikii*) securing vast carbon sinks and biodiversity. A Lot Of our Community have a sacred forest like **Pahewan, Tana Kelen,/Ulen**, Simpukng in Kalimantan. In Java and Bali we have Leweung Keramat, Alas Wingit. Bali its call Alas Kekeran that norm and rule guide by Awig-awig a customary law more respected than any modern fence. They are the lungs that keep our planet cool. This is not just mythology; this is ancient science.
- **Second, the *Sasi* system** in Maluku and Papua, **Lubuk Larangan** in Sumatera, which applies temporary harvesting closures to allow marine and coastal and forest ecosystems to regenerate and adapt to climate stressors.

Indonesia advocates for three strategic pathways:

- **First, Institutionalizing Local Wisdom.** The Harmonization of the indigenous peope zoning system like sacred forest leuweung Garapan with three Forest Function; Coservatiaon, Protection anf Production in Indonesian rules., its creates a sustainable and inclusive model for Forest Management .
- **Second, Direct and Simplified Climate Finance.** We call for financial modalities that bypass complex bureaucracies, ensuring global climate funds flow directly to indigenous institutions guarding critical forest and marine ecosystems on the ground. We Help from Norway and Other Country in two ways to the government and to the NGO like AMAN, BRWA,

- **Third, Equating Knowledge Systems.** Traditional ecological knowledge must be engaged on an equal footing with modern climate science under a rights-based approach.

Through **Customary Forests (Hutan Adat)**, Indonesia is legally securing the living spaces of our indigenous peoples, resolving old conflicts, and preserving traditional knowledge.

Climate change cannot be solved by technology alone. It requires a shift in human consciousness. Our Adat people have managed these forests sustainably for generations. They are not just victims of climate change; they are the architects of our survival.

Terima Kasih and Thank you.

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