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(Translator Mapuzugun-Spanish)

Good evening, brothers and sisters, lovers of languages. I greet you in my mother language, called Mapuzugun.

I am a Mapuche and I come from the Wallmapu, a nation that pre-exists the state of Chile, which, far from recognizing us, has denied and excluded us for more than 200 years, and denied our rights to self-government, self-determination and territory through racist and colonial politics.

I am a lecturer by profession, I teach indigenous language, bilingual education at the Universidad de Santiago and the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

Right now, I am the President of Chile's Constitutional Convention, and we are writing a new constitution.

In the year 1992, I was one of the hundreds of brothers and sisters who said stop the denial of Mapuche and created the Wenufoye, our flag, with which we decided to display our identity.

I have always participated in the Mapuche movement, and my work consists of recovering the Mapuche language and recuperating its functional use in all spheres of communication; I work in creating neologisms in Mapuzugun because our language, being the object of discrimination, has been displaced by Castilian, the majority language, and has stopped its lexical and discursive updating.

In the years that I have been working as an educator, I have witnessed tough past and present narratives that repeat throughout Chile. Stories of boys and girls, who in their schools, in the heart of winter, were made to kneel on tiny stones as punishment for not speaking the official language of the state.

Today, as president of the Constitutional Convention, we are projecting a Plurinational State, with parity, with all the diversities. The Plurinational State will be enriched with the diverse languages that pre-exist Castilian or Spanish.

We do not want the stories of discrimination against the original languages to repeat themselves, because to silence a language is to silence the people who speak it and, as human beings, we are no more than language, for that reason I call upon us to love languages and to love the diversity that they represent.

We also must prepare ourselves for the decade of indigenous languages for the year 2023, declared by the UN.

The linguistic rights of indigenous nations are a part of fundamental human rights; if we today raise our voice for our languages is because of our children and because of the new generations who will have to continue the defense of their languages and to fight against linguistic discrimination, projecting their respective languages.

I also call upon us to set up plurilingualism as a policy of coexistence, to maintain mother languages, and to cultivate languages of coexistence among cultures, as a sign of reaffirming the commitment to linguistic-cultural diversity.

For languages are beautiful, as beautiful is the human and non-human heart. Mapuche people have many concepts that are only shared in our language, for example, *piwkeyeyu*, 'I carry you in my heart'. Why should we forget this beautiful word when often we need to communicate this to our loved ones?

Let's go and let's share with the rest other forms of naming things, other feelings; let's teach principles of love, of coexistence, necessary for humanity as the principle of *ixofij mogen*, which recognizes all forms of human and non-human life and their interdependence.

The basis of this principle is to permit that any citizen acts in defense of Mother Earth's rights when they are threatened.

That is all, brothers and sisters. Thank you very much. Ten times win.

May you be well!