(Geneva, Switzerland) Thank you, Mr. President. My name is Dave Archambault, II—I am the Chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Our Tribal Nation is a Sovereign Nation, located in the United States.

Our Sovereignty is recognized by the United States through legally-binding Treaties of 1851 and 1868, signed by our Traditional Lakota Government, Oceti Sakowin, then passed by the United States Senate and proclaimed by the President of the United States.

I am here because oil companies are causing the deliberate destruction of our sacred places and graves. Dakota Access Pipeline wants to build an oil pipeline under the river that is the source of our Nation’s drinking water. This pipeline threatens our communities, the river, the earth.

Our Nation is working to protect our waters and our sacred places for the benefit of our children not yet born, but the oil companies and the government of the United States have failed to respect our sovereign rights.

Today, the pipeline construction continues, although it has temporarily stopped near our Nation. This company has knowingly destroyed sacred sites and our ancestors’ graves with bulldozers. This company has also used attack dogs to harm individuals who tried to protect our water and sacred sites. I condemn all violence, including the use of guard dogs.

While we have gone to court in the United States, our courts have failed to protect our sovereign rights, our sacred places, and our water.
We call upon the Human Rights Council and All Member States to condemn the destruction of our sacred places and to support our Nation’s efforts to ensure that our sovereign rights are respected.

We ask that you call upon all parties to stop the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, and to protect the environment, our Nation’s future, our culture, and our way of life.