

**United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Seventh Session  
New York, April 21 to May 2, 2008.**

**Item 4: Implementation of the recommendations on the six mandated areas of the  
Permanent Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals**

**Presented by Grand Chief Edward John on behalf of:**

**North American Indigenous Peoples Caucus  
African Indigenous Peoples Caucus  
Asian Indigenous Peoples Caucus  
Pacific Indigenous Peoples Caucus  
South American Indigenous Peoples Caucus  
Arctic Indigenous Caucus**

The United Nations Permanent Forum of Indigenous Issues recognizes that each year there are 9.2 million cases of tuberculosis resulting in 1.7 million deaths. Tuberculosis affects disproportionately the socio-economically dispossessed. Tuberculosis, although 90 percent preventable and curable, is exacerbated by TB/HIV co-infection and emerging forms of drug resistant disease.

The 370 million Indigenous peoples spanning 80 countries live among the poorest and most marginalized communities in the world, placing them at a greater risk of suffering from tuberculosis. Where good data is available, tuberculosis rates are 20-30 times higher for Indigenous peoples than expected. However, Indigenous identifiers are not available in tuberculosis data of Africa, Asia and Latin America. In collaboration with the STOP TB Partnership we demand an urgent and strong response against tuberculosis in these communities.

We recommend that the UNPFII consider this TB pandemic as urgent. We further recommend that the UNPFII and its members:

- Support empowerment initiatives in Indigenous communities in addressing tuberculosis;
- Support the development and implementation of the Global Indigenous STOP TB Initiative;
- Work with the STOP TB Partnership to enhance the fight against tuberculosis and its associated risk factors;
- Provide political encouragement to the Initiative;
- Advise and facilitate links to the global Indigenous communities;
- Demand resource mobilization efforts to strengthen tuberculosis response among Indigenous communities;
- Assist in implementation of article 24(2) of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* which recognizes that Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States are to take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.

Finally, it is recommended that the Initiative report annually to the UNPFII.