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Second Session, Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues, 12-23 May 2003

Agenda 4 (a): Economic and Social Development

Group Recommendations of the International Indian Treaty Council, the Indigenous Environmental Network, the Seventh Generation Fund, and their affiliated Indigenous Nations and Organizations

Mr. Chairman, please consider this a group statement on behalf of the International Indian Treaty Council, and the Indigenous Environmental Network, the Seventh Generation Fund, and their many affiliated Indigenous Nations and Indigenous organizations from the Americas and the Pacific.

We begin with specific recommendations to the P.F.

Recommendation 1. Given the rejection of the World Bank to Indigenous Peoples consultations of 4 basic elements essential to the survival of Indigenous Peoples, we would recommend that the Permanent Forum reflect its profound disappointment that the World Bank will adopt and implement its policy on Indigenous Peoples without taking into account established and emerging international human rights standards and the virtually unanimous inputs of Indigenous Peoples from all parts of the world, regarding:

1. Self identification as the fundamental criteria for the application of the Indigenous Peoples policy;
2. Full recognition of traditional law and rights to natural resources that are not recognized by national laws;
3. Free, prior and informed consent; and,
4. The complete restriction of the forced relocation of Indigenous Peoples,

And that the Permanent Forum through the ECOSOC recommend to the World Bank that it amend and adopt its Indigenous Policy to include these safeguards necessary for the survival of Indigenous Peoples.

Recommendation 2. That given the WB rejection of these principles basic to the survival of Indigenous Peoples, that the Permanent Forum, through the Council, recommend to the Commission on Human Rights and their Working Group on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, that they accept the Declaration as it was proposed by the Sub-Commission, without change or amendment, particularly the sections on Self Determination, land and natural resources and identity.

Recommendation 3. Recommend to the Commission on Sustainable Development, that in its implementation of the WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation consider the integration of the Indigenous Peoples' Kimberly Plan of Implementation; further, that the CSD address the

need to consider sustainable development and Indigenous Peoples from a rights based approach, particularly the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples;

Echoing the recommendations made by the Office of the High Commissioner to the Permanent Forum in this session's document E/C.19/2003/CRP.5 of 29 April 2003, we would also make the following recommendations to the Permanent Forum for their recommendations to the ECOSOC, that it:

Recommendation 4. Recommend to the Inter-Agency Support Group that it consider and report to the Permanent Forum, on how it might address the specific proposals of the Kimberly document, and the need to consider sustainable development from a rights based approach, particularly the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Recommendation 5. That the Permanent Forum, through the ECOSOC, invite the Working Group on Indigenous Populations to consider how it could respond to the proposals made by Indigenous Peoples in the Kimberly documents, in particular, under its standard setting mandate, how it could contribute to guidelines relating to Indigenous Peoples and tourism, Indigenous Peoples and transnational corporations, and the concept of free, prior and informed consent.

Recommendation 6. That given the present state of Indigenous Peoples and the very real threat of our extinction, that the Permanent Forum call upon the WGIP, the Sub-Commission, the Commission for Human Rights, ECOSOC itself and the General Assembly, to recommend and ultimately declare a new Decade for Indigenous Peoples, to finish the work of the first Decade that obviously remains undone.

Mr. Chairman, given the rejection by the WB of principles that would aid but not even assure our survival, we recommit to principles and positions stated over and over again, by countless international Indigenous caucuses and gatherings, from all over the world, most recently the Kimberly Indigenous Peoples Declaration and Plan of Implementation, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development:

in the interests of time, I will read only 3

We will direct our energies and organizational strength to consolidate our collective values and principles, which spring from the interrelation of the different lifes in Nature. There lies our origin and we reaffirm it practicing our culture and spirituality.

✓ We strongly reject all policies, including privatization, liberalization, and structural adjustment policies, which do not recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights. We strongly support the cancellation of the external debt of countries of the South, which results in adverse impacts on our cultures, lands, and territories.

We urge States and the international community to develop specific instruments for the protection of Indigenous Peoples' natural, cultural, social and technological capital as a repository for our economy and the strengthening of indigenous development.

We will continue to call upon national governments and the international community to establish a legal framework that validates and enables the functioning of traditional and innovative collective economic models. These economic models should have access to mainstream financial mechanisms, including credit, and should enable trade or barter in goods and services relevant to Indigenous Peoples and our communities.

We will take responsibility to ensure that in the event that we generate sustainable tourism activities, these should be based on our own development strategies, incorporating the respect for our traditional values and ethics, human rights and the conservation of our natural and cultural heritage.

We will invite governments to participate in our efforts to develop and apply guidelines and regulations on the development of tourism, based on the principles of respect for our rights, the local cultures and the integrity of the ecosystems.

✓ We will work to ensure the recognition, protection and respect for Indigenous Peoples' unqualified right to self-determination, which is the basic precondition to guarantee our ownership, permanent sovereignty, control and management of our lands, territories and natural resources. Any dialogue or partnership with Indigenous Peoples on sustainable development must be based on recognition, protection, and respect for this fundamental principle.

✓ We will continue to urge governments to establish specific legal frameworks, recognizing Indigenous Peoples' rights to self-determination, ancestral lands and territories and to adopt the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as approved by the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the UN Sub-Commission on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights before the end of the United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

for all my relations,

Thank you Mr. Champarom