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COMMON STATEMENT OF ASIAN CAUCUS:
Economic and Social Development

On behalf of the Asian IP caucus, I wish to convey our common situation and recommendations on economic and social Development.

Majority of indigenous peoples in Asia remains economically marginalized and impoverished. This condition of indigenous peoples is caused by their continuing loss of ancestral lands and resources, less budget for social and basic services, and impositions of destructive projects such as large mining, dams, commercial logging, inappropriate watershed plan, and aggressive promotion of cash crop economy, *destroying traditional livelihood activities & sources*

Because of economic hardship and numerous impositions detrimental to our own development, this has resulted to more social conflicts, social problems, especially amongst the youth, and continuing social discrimination *of indigenous people*

*affirm the
UN Declaration
the IP
in of implem
entation for
sustainable
development*

We strongly assert the recognition of our collective rights in order for us to collectively determine our own economic and social development as indigenous peoples. We therefore request the Permanent Forum to work for and recommend the following:

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- 1) Recognition of ancestral land rights [including] natural resources
 - 2) Recognition of the right of IP communities to own, manage, and develop their own resources
 - 3) More social welfare & services to IP communities to include *appropriate* health, education, employment and ~~appropriate~~ infrastructures requested by IP communities
 - 4) Empower IP communities through appropriate education and technical skills needed for social and economic development
 - 5) More public education on IP issues and rights for equality, non-discrimination
 - 6) Ensure the implementation of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) to all projects and programs to be implemented in IP territories/areas. *We look forward to the immediate establishment of the working group on FPIC*

Thank you.

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