

**Intervention to the Tenth Session of the  
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2011  
Youth Caucus Statement - May 17, 2011**

**Agenda Item 3: Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum:**

Thank you, Madame Chair.

Hello, my name is Erin Konsmo, and I am part of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Canada.

We want to congratulate the new members and Ms. Mirnia Cunningham in her designation as the chair of the PF and wish you success. The Global Indigenous Youth Caucus has always been committed to working closely with the Forum members and Secretariat to protect and promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

On behalf of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, I hereby ask all of our brothers and sisters here to take a look around. You will see that there are only a few Indigenous children and youth present, despite the fact that we, Indigenous youth and children, compose at least 50% of the total Indigenous population in the world. In the Seventh Session the Permanent Forum expressed its appreciation to the Indigenous Youth Caucus and called for its continued, effective participation in the sessions of the Forum, as well as in other decision-making processes concerning indigenous peoples' rights. It is our most urgent concern and recommendation that, in this very Forum, a place for the world's Indigenous Peoples, our right to participation is seriously violated because of the apparent low number of daily passes being distributed. How can we talk about Free, Prior and Informed Consent if we cannot even be present?

In the past few years, we, indigenous youth have made several recommendations regarding economic and social development, environment, and especially Free, Prior and Informed Consent. However, we regrettably say that many of the issues we have raised were not addressed in a satisfactory manner. Therefore, I would like to draw your attention on several issues and the recommendations we generated from our specific perspective as Indigenous youth. We firmly believe the implementation of the following recommendations can further enhance the fulfillment of Indigenous children and youth's Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In the Forum's 1<sup>st</sup> Session, Item 7, paragraph 31(c), it was asked for Special Rapporteurs and representatives of the United Nations system to have both specific mandates and implications for the rights and issues of children. However, this requirement is not effectively fulfilled after 10 years. We feel with the high representation of Indigenous children and youth a Special Rapporteur on Indigenous youth and children is urgent.
2. We recommend the creation of specific indicators both within UN agencies and within States to measure the development of Indigenous youth. Economic measures of development fail to recognize Indigenous youth as the foundation of strong economic and social development. These new indicators must include factors relating to culture, identity, holistic health, as well as the ability to exert the right to self-determination, as these are determinants of our well-being.
3. The Forum has made many recommendations regarding the environmental degradation; however, their implementation remains unsolved. We respectfully request the Forum to review the recommendations made in the past, evaluate the degree of implementation and further

elaborate the possible way of implementation, especially taking into consideration the needs of Indigenous youth.

4. We further request the Permanent Forum to develop guidelines for States and UN Agencies for designing, in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples, protocols for emergency situations resulting from natural disasters so that in eventual cases of emergency, this does not lead to human rights violations of indigenous peoples, especially Indigenous youth, children and women due to forced relocation, lack of Free, Prior and Informed Consent or taking advantage of emergency situations for taking control over Indigenous Peoples lands, territories and resources.

5. Indigenous youth are directly affected in all aspects of their lives, health and well-being through ethnocide, non-recognition of Indigenous Peoples, lands and rights, and the forced, and often violent, removal of Indigenous youth from their lands for purposes such as natural resource extraction and other economic development projects without their Free, Prior and Informed Consent. We recommend that the Permanent Forum, UN states and agencies investigate violations of articles of the UNDRIP relevant to Free, Prior and Informed Consent and how forced removal and relocation affects Indigenous youth and children specifically.

6. Indigenous Peoples and youth have been asking for full implementation of the UNDRIP, particularly Free, Prior and Informed Consent for many years. Therefore, we ask that the Permanent Forum and UN agencies cite specific examples of when Free, Prior and Informed Consent was fully implemented while maintaining the self-determination of all Indigenous Peoples involved.

Thank you, Madam Chair.