

**Agenda Item 7 – Workplan of the Permanent Forum
Statement by Asia Indigenous Caucus**

Mr. Chairman, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Caucus would like to put some suggestions to be considered by the Permanent Forum as part of its workplan.

We recommend the following as priority areas:

1. That the Permanent Forum establish Working Groups that would conduct consultations with indigenous peoples in the different regions on issues relating to Economic, Social, Environment, Health, Education, Culture, Women, Children, Free and Prior Informed Consent, Militarisation, Religious Intolerance and Treaties and Constructive Agreements Between States and Indigenous Peoples. These Working Groups should be composed of knowledgeable indigenous peoples' representatives from different regions, and at least one member of the Permanent Forum. These Working Groups should report to the Permanent Forum during its annual session, and provide advice and recommendations.
2. That the Permanent Forum, through the proposed Working Groups, where relevant, works with the WG on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the CBD to develop both a mechanism and Guideline for a Cultural, Social and Environmental Impact Assessment on Proposed Projects to take place in sacred sites and territories of indigenous peoples.
3. That the Permanent Forum establish a Secretariat and identify volunteers and paid staff to help in the follow-up work of the Permanent Forum, bearing in mind the importance of gender and regional balance. The Secretariat should establish communication networks with indigenous peoples' organizations and help coordinate communication and cooperation between the indigenous peoples' organizations and UN Agencies and Programmes.
4. That the Permanent Forum establish a mechanism to review and evaluate law, policy and the constitutions of States on indigenous peoples, with a view to ensuring the explicit recognition of the rights indigenous peoples.
5. That the Permanent Forum review and evaluate the effectiveness of existing programmes and projects of UN Agencies and Programmes with respect to indigenous peoples. The Forum should also advise those UN Agencies and Programmes that do not yet have programmes addressing indigenous issues in order to set up such programmes within their respective mandates.
6. That the Permanent Forum, within its mandate, work with UN Agencies and Programmes to organize regional consultations with indigenous peoples' organizations and communities.
7. That the Permanent Forum prepares and disseminates information on activities by UN Agencies and Programmes relating to indigenous peoples with special attention to ensuring that this information will both reach and be understandable to indigenous peoples.
8. That the Permanent Forum establish mechanisms for full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in all UN fora.
9. That the Permanent Forum, in cooperation with relevant UN bodies, organise consultations with governments regarding ratification and adoption of existing and future international instruments which pertain to indigenous peoples, in particular ILO 169 and the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.