

ENTIRE STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

JOINT STATEMENT MADE BY MR. RICHARD JORDAN, ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF INTL. COUNCIL FOR CARING COMMUNITIES, AND ON BEHALF OF THE NGO COMMITTEE ON THE UN AND SPORTS, ALONG WITH THE NORTHERN CAUCUS OF THE CSD/NGO STEERING COMMITTEE

Madame Chairwoman, indigenous relations, all of the inhabitants of the Lower Hudson River bioregion in which I live, with thanks, I make this statement on behalf of the Intl. Council for Caring Communities, along with the NGO Committee on the UN and Sports, and the Northern Caucus of the CSD/NGO Steering Committee, I am introducing a short list of nine recommendations in support of the remarks of Mr. Willie Littlechild, member of the Permanent Forum, on Agenda Item 4(a) and two recommendations on Item 4(g).

The full text of the statement is given to the Secretariat.

1. We call upon indigenous organizations, governments, NGOs and civil society organizations, the private sector, academic research institutions, the media and the International Financial Institutions and UN Agencies and Programmes to implement the Magglingen Declaration of 2003 and the Magglingen Call to Action of 2005, where elements pertain to indigenous peoples. In this regard, CRP.1 introduced by Mr. Littlechild is the operative document.
2. We call for all parties to examine closely the Final Report of the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005 and to follow-up on many of the initiatives undertaken during the International Year, where elements pertain to indigenous peoples.
3. In regard to governments, we call upon Permanent Representatives of Member States to consider joining the group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace, co-chaired by the Permanent Representatives of Switzerland and Tunisia, and to consider how to work as a team for achieving the MDGs for indigenous peoples through sports.
4. We call upon NGOs to partner with indigenous peoples to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals for indigenous peoples and communities, in terms of health, the environment, education, poverty elimination and sustainable development, through sports and physical education of the whole person, body, mind and spirit.
5. We call upon the World Bank to consider discussing with the UN New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace the possibility of holding a consultation with all interested parties on promoting a more systematic and coherent use of sport for development activities, especially in conjunction with efforts to achieve the MDGs.
6. We call upon UN Agencies and Programmes to consider working closely with the UN New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace in exchanging and sharing information on how these Agencies and Programmes use sports in development programmes for the benefit of indigenous peoples and communities.

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The roles of UNEP and of the Intl. Olympic Committee's Sports and Environment Commission should be highlighted in terms of MDG 7, ensuring environmental sustainability.

7. We call upon the Host Committees of the future Olympic Games to ensure the inclusion of indigenous people in all aspects of their Cultural Olympics.
8. We call upon the UN to build upon the relationships already established with significant organizations, such as Right to Play and the World Scholar Athlete Games, and to consider partnerships with organizations such as the World Olympians Association.
9. We call upon indigenous peoples to consider taking a prominent role in promoting the concept of the Olympic Truce, especially in the context of indigenous games. It may be desirable to consider inclusion of an indigenous representative on the Board of the Olympic Truce Foundation.

Madame Chairwoman, under Item 4(g), we would like to suggest that since NGOs have for the first time had an NGO Liaison seconded to the Office of the General Assembly President during this 60th General Assembly, that indigenous peoples also seek such a liaison working in that office, and also that some arrangement be considered similarly when a new Secretary General takes office.

Secondly, by means of videoconference at the Intl. Council for Caring Communities conference "Age of Digital Opportunity: Connecting the Generations", the health needs of indigenous elders was discussed under the issue of Rural ICT Approaches.

Brian Beaton, K-Net Coordinator, Keewaytinook Okimakanak First Nations, related how residents of remote and isolated communities in Ontario's far north have adopted telehealth as a means to improve health care access and as a way to ensure the sustainability of the Kuhkenah Network.

Thus, ICCC believes that the inclusion of the issue of telehealth in terms of enabling indigenous elders to overcome the obstacles in traveling long distances that are sometimes involved in getting medical treatment could be a topic of interest to be discussed during the Second Decade.

ICCC would welcome the wise counsel and comments of indigenous peoples of all ages in constructing a useful and ongoing dialogue with health professionals with whom ICCC is working, such as Dean Craig Lehmann of the School of Health Technology, Stony Brook University, SUNY, so that the MDGs can be usefully implemented not only for indigenous peoples, but WITH indigenous peoples as partners.

Thank you Madame Chairwoman.