

10th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
UN Headquarter, 16 - 27 May 2011

Monday, 23 May, 2011: 3 p.m.-6 p.m.
Conference Room 1, United Nations, New York

STATEMENT OF THE ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CAUCUS

Agenda Item 7: Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues of the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues

World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

The Asia indigenous peoples' caucus welcomes the adoption of the UN General Assembly of the Resolution A/C.3/65/L.22/Rev.1 to hold a World Conference on Indigenous Peoples on 2014. We extend our appreciation to the government of Bolivia for presenting this Resolution, and to the other governments who have co-sponsored this Resolution. In order to make this historical World Conference on Indigenous Peoples truly meaningful and substantive, it is imperative to take concrete steps in order to shape the outcome of this conference based on the aspirations of indigenous peoples. Along this line, the Asia Caucus wishes to present the following preparatory steps and process. The activities shall be officially recognized as preparatory activities for the World Conference, and funding support shall be sought from various sources to enable the implementation of these key activities.

1. The formation of an International Coordinating Committee of Indigenous Peoples (ICCIP) before the end of this year (2011). It shall be composed of two representatives for each region, and 2 representatives for each of the indigenous youth caucus and women's caucus. This body shall coordinate closely with the UNPFii and its secretariat, as well as to the group of state-sponsor of the resolution on matters relating to the preparation for the World Conference.
2. The conduct of global workshop of indigenous peoples this year (2011 or early 2012) to discuss the outcome framework of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples based on the aspirations and key priorities of indigenous peoples. This workshop shall be composed of the members of the ICCIP with additional representatives from each region and representatives of the UNPFii, EMRIP and the Special Rapporteur. Further, this workshop shall also

deliberate on preparatory activities at the national and regional levels and its coordination

3. Organization of Regional Preparatory Conferences

These gatherings shall deliberate on the indigenous peoples aspirations and key concerns for resolutions for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples based on the outcome framework agreed upon at the global level. These conferences shall ensure appropriate representation and participation of organizations of indigenous peoples. The number of participants and methodology of regional conference may vary from region to region based on their particular

4. Conduct of Global Conference of indigenous peoples as the final preparatory step in 2013.

We certainly welcome and appreciate the announcement of the Saami Parliament, earlier, to host a big gathering of indigenous peoples by June 2013 as a preparatory activity for the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. This Conference will gather hundreds of indigenous peoples including indigenous parliamentarians from all the different regions and countries to consolidate the result of the regional workshops as the outcomes of the preparatory process. It will be for five days with three days for the consolidation of the results of the regional workshops and two days for presentation and discussion with state representatives. This gathering will also be an occasion to strengthen solidarity and cooperation of indigenous peoples, as well as to share the rich cultures of indigenous peoples around the world.

5. Lobbying with member-states

After the final resolution for concrete outcomes for the UN World Conference on indigenous peoples that will emerge from the global world conference held in Norway, sustained lobbying work at the national, regional and global levels shall be conducted in order to ensure the broadest support of states to this resolution. These efforts shall be coordinated by the ICCIP.

Rio+20 / UN Conference on Sustainable Development

As far as the Rio + 20 or UN Conference on Sustainable Development is concerned the Asia Indigenous Peoples' Caucus welcomes this as the prime opportunity for the world community to reaffirm and embed indigenous peoples vital role in sustainable development. The foundations of the three pillars of sustainable development are diverse economies, empowered communities and resilient ecosystems at the local level. Indigenous peoples

customary resource management systems and local livelihoods, are tested examples of sustainable use of natural resources, embodying principles of green economies. Indigenous peoples, as rights-holders and ecosystem managers have important contributions towards sound environmental governance at all levels - at local, sub-national, national, regional and global levels, and particularly in applying ecosystems-based approaches.

We reiterate that the Kari-Oca Declaration (1992), the Indigenous Peoples' Kimberley Political Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Indigenous' Peoples' Johannesburg Implementation Plan of Action on Sustainable Development (2002) are important policy statements of Indigenous Peoples on Sustainable Development which should inform the future outcome document of the World Conference on Sustainable Development.

Last week, Tebtebba and the Indigenous Environmental Network for Rio + 20, held a side event last week on to discuss the ways indigenous peoples should participate in this Rio + 20 process. Several suggestions were raised in this side-event which are supported by the Asia Indigenous Peoples' Caucus.

The organizing partners proposed that indigenous peoples' should organize regional processes to discuss their views and perspectives on the issues which shall be discussed in Rio + 20. The objectives of Rio + 20 which are to review the implementation gaps in achieving sustainable development and meeting the goals of the agreements and programmes of actions of the major world conferences on sustainable development and to identify the emerging issues related to sustainable development are very important for indigenous peoples. The themes of Rio + 20 which are on the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and international governance on sustainable development are issues which indigenous peoples have a lot to contribute to.

Recommendations

The Asian Indigenous Peoples' Caucus recommends the following;

1. The UNPFII should fully support the efforts of indigenous peoples to get the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the preparations for Rio+20 and beyond.
2. We call on the Member-states to ensure indigenous presence at Rio+20 by including indigenous peoples' representatives in official delegations to Rio+20 and in the preparatory Regional

Implementation Meetings ;

3. The UN agencies and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues to promote the inclusion of indigenous peoples, their issues and perspectives in the preparations for and implementation of Rio+20 outcomes to address such issues as food security and agricultural biodiversity, climate change actions, the right to water, ecosystem management and diverse local economies;

4. We call on multilateral and bilateral donors and other philanthropic organizations to support indigenous peoples' initiatives and processes to contribute to Rio+20 including participation at the 64th UN DPI Conference, to be held on September 3-5 in Bonn, Germany and at the Regional Implementation Meetings, to be held at the following dates:

- The Latin America and Caribbean Region, ECLAC
7 Sep 2011 - 9 Sept 2011 , Santiago, Chile
- Africa Region, ECA and partners
10 Oct 2011 - 14 Oct 2011 , Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- The Arab Region, ESCWA and partners
18 Oct 2011 - 20 Oct 2011 , Cairo, Egypt
- Asia Pacific Region, ESCAP
19 Oct 2011 - 20 Oct 2011 , Seoul, Republic of South Korea
- ECE Region, ECE
1 Dec 2011 - 2 Dec 2011 , Geneva, Switzerland ;

5. We also call on all Indigenous Peoples, organisations and communities to coordinate and unite their efforts, together with partners, to achieve a high profile and strong outcomes from Rio+20. This means;

- Contributing to the researches on the implementation of sustainable development in the regions where indigenous peoples are found.
- Consolidating their practices and perspectives in promoting, operationalizing and implementing sustainable development in their communities using the human rights -based approach, ecosystems or biocultural landscape approach and approaches which are based on the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples.

6. Finally, we call on the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that an **International expert group meeting on the theme “Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Development”** be organized and the result of this be reported at the eleventh session of the UNPFII and the Rio + 20 /UN Conference on Sustainable Development. If they cannot hold this, we recommend that this be jointly organized with Tebtebba and IEN and other interested UN bodies and indigenous peoples’ networks and organizations.

Thank you very much, Madame Chair.