



**AFRICAN INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION**

*Third Session of the Permanent Forum, New York, NY,  
USA-Item (4a) Economic and Social Development*

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Mr. Chairman, I come from a continent which is a den of problems. A continent which according to the Human development report, human development is proceeding too slowly. At the current rate, as the world is working to archive the millennium development goals by 2015, Sub- Saharan Africa can not reach the goals for poverty until 2147 and child mortality until 2165. HIV/AIDS and hunger trends in the region are increasing than decreasing.

Mr. Chairman, African Indigenous Women would like to recommend the Permanent Form to request the United Nations agencies to support studies using rapid participatory methodology to collect qualitative information on ~~key~~ gender dimension of key issues such as poverty and health

In Africa Indigenous Women remain the poorest of the poor caused by lack of education, lack of recognition, denial of their rights as key players in the society. We recommend the United Nations, international NGOS inter-governmental organization and other key players in development to access funds to Indigenous women for them to be able to undertake income generating activities to improve their lives.

Mr. Chairman one of the setbacks and causes of poverty in Africa is the conflict that is going on in different countries, in most cases, women are the victims, they loose their love ones, separated from their families and mass loose of family property causing them despair and their social life disrupted. Schools are closed and family displace. We recommend the Permanent Forum to request the UN Security council to look into the conflict problems in Africa and discuss it as a ~~very~~ urgent matter. We recommend that the UN agencies working in conflict areas like UNCHR, WFP International Red Cross should attend the next PF so that they can understand Indigenous Peoples Problems. We also request that the African commission on human and Peoples rights attend the next session of the Permanent Forum.

Communication is one of the areas that denies Indigenous Peoples and especially women any access to information that could help advance their development in the region, we do recommend that the Permanent Forum assists in ensuring that funding mechanisms are put in place to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations from the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Information society held in 2003.

There is need for the Permanent Forum to set an information desk to: ~~assist~~ <sup>assist</sup> IRs to:

- Enhance the sharing and exchange of information and networking among indigenous Peoples, Women and youth, <sup>around the Globe.</sup>
- Elaborate good strategies of communication; e.g. traditional methods of communication, community radio, and other channels of information dissemination.
- ~~Encourage the use of~~ <sup>the</sup> use of media and especially community media-(local vernacular radio, newsletters, folk media), ~~have demonstration session for the indigenous and local communities to advertise through existing media, such as radio, TV, Newspaper and Internet use.~~