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**Intervention to the Tenth Session of the  
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2011  
Global Indigenous Youth Caucus Statement - May 25, 2011**

**Agenda Item 8: Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues of the  
Economic and Social Council and emerging issues: the impacts of the global crisis on indigenous  
peoples**

Thank you, Madame Chair.

The Global Indigenous Youth Caucus gratefully appreciates all the assistance and support for our engagement and participation in this session of the Forum. We were blessed to come together in solidarity to have our first preparatory meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> 2011 in New York City. Youth contributed their threads of thoughts and wove this fabric that was supported and upheld by the attending senior indigenous rights defenders. The preparatory meeting was successful in preparing the youth for their participation in the Forum and we wish to continue this for the years to come. We give special thanks to DoCip for their committed and continuous support to our work. As reiterated several times, we are firmly committed to cooperating with the Secretariat of the Forum and other UN agencies to carry on the work beyond the sessions of the Forum.

While we are highly privileged to sit in this room, most of the world's Indigenous youth have no access to such an opportunity. Therefore, it is our responsibility to reaffirm and call for your attention to the following issues:

1. Indigenous Peoples, especially youth, have the right to participate in decision-making processes, including this Forum. We reaffirm that our Indigenous nations shall be the ones to be looked upon in this Forum, not nationality defined by modern sovereign states. Delegates traveling to the Forum shall be protected from being detained, kidnapped and denied entry due to visa, accreditation, political interference, and other hidden agendas. Indigenous Peoples' right to participation, assembly and freedom of speech and travel shall not be infringed by any forces. We call for transparency, due process and legitimacy to appeal for the Indigenous Peoples' Organizations that are denied access to the Forum. Without providing these measures of accountability, the Forum cannot live up to the expectations of the Indigenous Peoples.
2. Unrecognized and under-represented Indigenous Peoples shall be given special attention. No Indigenous persons shall be excluded from international human rights protection, even if they are not recognized as Indigenous Peoples either domestically or internationally. The need to include such populations under international and domestic indigenous rights protection, in accordance with Article 3 of the UNDRIP is an urgent issue.
3. Given that the Chittagong Hill Tracts region has still been a heavily militarized region due to the non-implementation of the CHT accord after three decades, it is now a serious concern that the indigenous youth's human rights to participate through raising their voice for the implementation of their rights has been violated through means including arbitrary arrest and harassment. Delaying the implementation of the CHT accord also created the unfairness of employment and education opportunity. We strongly call for the immediate implementation of the CHT accord and recognition of the CHT Jumma people as Indigenous Peoples.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

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MARK HOLDEN  
25/5/11

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Ricky Ina

Bea Powless

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