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**ASIAN CAUCUS STATEMENT  
ITEM 5: FUTURE WORK OF THE FORUM  
Presented by: Mrinal Tripura**

For the Future activities of the Permanent Forum, we recommend the organization of a conference on the rights-based to sustainable development of indigenous peoples with focus on the role of UN agencies, funds and programmes, including international financial institutions. We believe this kind of seminar can provide a more focused programme and strategies by the Permanent Forum on addressing development issues within the human rights framework.

While we support the continuing focus on the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) for the 5<sup>th</sup> session of the Permanent Forum, we would like to broaden the context and framework of presentations and discussion to the millenium declaration and sustainable development. We also expect that reports from UN agencies and governments to focus on concrete achievements, challenges and plans on the MDGs and sustainable development in relation to indigenous peoples. Likewise, we hope a high level panel discussion on these issues will have more time and to be fully attended by the panelist for better interaction with indigenous peoples.

In addition, the Asia Caucus wishes to make the following proposals as priority activities for the Second Decade of indigenous peoples:

1. More sustained support to strengthen and build the capacity of indigenous peoples from the local, national and regional levels to be able to fully and more actively engage in the various UN processes and mechanisms in the promotion of their rights, welfare, issues and concerns.
2. The adoption of the International Declaration on Indigenous Peoples Rights on the first 2-3 years of the Decade, so that the rest of the Decade will then be optimize for its implementation in order to gain social justice for indigenous peoples. It is an urgent concern for us in Asia that this Declaration be passed with explicit provisions on the recognition of the right to land and self determination.
3. We recommend the Permanent Forum to initiate a regional conference on the concept of indigenusness in Asia based on independent research and case studies, in order to bridge a better understanding, appreciation and cooperation on this issue.
4. Promotion of cultural and intellectual property rights of indigenous peoples around the world. Activities along this line should underscore the respect and integrity of indigenous culture, and the protection of intellectual property rights of indigenous peoples, as a matter of our continuing survival
5. In order to facilitate greater global understanding and appreciation of indigenous issues and concerns, we also propose the development and strengthening of indigenous media through trainings of indigenous journalists and editors among others and the establishment of indigenous media networks at various levels with the support and assistance of UN agencies, funds and programmes. In addition to

this, support to researches and studies by indigenous peoples be given priority as well.

6. We welcome the appointment of an indigenous ambassador for the Second Decade of indigenous peoples who shall promote indigenous issues and concerns globally and to seek funds to support priority activities of the decade and for capacity building activities and programmes of indigenous peoples.
7. Undertake evaluation of national machineries on human rights and indigenous peoples' rights (e.g. ministries of tribal affairs, commissions on indigenous peoples, human rights commissions, etc.) to identify strengths and weaknesses which shall form the basis of reforming such bodies to become more effective.
8. To ensure better coordination, collaboration, and complementation between UN specialized agencies, bodies, programmes and funds and other international and national agencies, in relation to implementation of programmes, policies, and standards addressing indigenous peoples at the international, regional and national levels.
9. The evolution and development of more policies, programmes, and projects by UN bodies, funds, specialized agencies and programmes, jointly with indigenous peoples, in the areas of economic development, environment, education, culture, health, and human rights.
10. Strengthen further the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Special Rapporteur mechanisms and other bodies relevant for indigenous people by providing more financial, human and technical resources and ensuring the implementation of recommendations and policies from these bodies.
11. The establishment of an Indigenous Peoples' Fund which has adequate resources to support projects and programmes of indigenous organizations and communities, governments, and non-government organizations. This fund should prioritize capacity-building of indigenous organizations and it should be administered with transparency and accountability.
12. The further the implementation of the recommendations pertaining to indigenous peoples of all high-level international conferences and Agreements, including the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development, World Summit on Information Society, World Conference on Racism, Xenophobia and all forms of Discrimination, and the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in an indigenous-sensitive manner.
13. The further development and effective use of environmental, social and human rights impact assessment methods, indicators which are sensitive to the realities of indigenous peoples.

We also submitting a list of proposed activities to be undertaken by all actors for the Second Decade.