



25/05/05, #5, 250

**Statement by South Asia Indigenous Women Forum, SAIWF
4th Session of UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues,
United Nations Headquarter, New York,
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**Item: 5
Future of work of Permanent Forum**

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Madam chair, I would like to thank the UN General Assembly for proclaiming the Second Decade. We hope that this second decade will strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous peoples.

We have enough of recommendations done through various UN Processes and now are the time for action. We are concern that the UN Permanent Forum should not become the bank of recommendations and that the PF focuses more for the implementation of the recommendations received so far. We are also concern that indigenous women and girls be given priority in the program for actions. Bearing this in mind we would like to propose that:

1. The mottos for the second decade be "Engagement for Action".
2. Indigenous women and girls should be a special focus during the Decade and their effective participation be promoted,
3. Special emphasis should be placed to the participation of indigenous peoples in the Millennium Development Goals process at the national and international levels,
4. All the programs of actions be based on human rights based approach to development and perspectives of self-determination, self-development, ownership of projects and programs and their free, prior and informed consent.
5. To present the program of actions, we would like to present as follows:
 - a. The finalization of negotiations on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and its adoption in the early stage of the Second Decade,
 - b. Increase and systematic focus on the implementation of existing international standards and policies of relevance to indigenous peoples. An important activity to implement these standards should include the ratification of ILO Convention 169 concerning Indigenous peoples.
 - c. Governments should also further develop National legislation for the protection and promotion of human rights, including means of monitoring and guaranteeing those rights.
 - d. International community should develop and adopt international instruments for the protection and defense of traditional and collective knowledge of indigenous peoples,

- e. Implementation of MDGs should be monitored by developing and effectively using human rights impact assessment methods which are sensitive to the realities of indigenous peoples.
- f. Key to the implementation of the program of action is full and informed consultations and participation of indigenous peoples.
- g. We would also like to suggest the creation of Council of Indigenous peoples in each region with a mandate of evaluating of the second decade in achieving its goals.
- h. Designating focal point at the country level amongst UN agencies, funds and program with country offices,
- i. Organize a regional consultation for strategic planning
- j. Permanent Forum recommends the coordinator of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples to explore and work towards the creation of the possible Indigenous peoples development fund at international, which can follow the example of the UNICEF or UNIFEM and at national level by the States, taking into account the review report of the first international decade of the world's indigenous peoples, to reach the benefit of the UN development initiatives through governmental and indigenous peoples' organization at the grass root level.

Majority of the indigenous peoples are caught up in armed conflicts and wars. Resolving Conflict and restoration of peace is the prime condition for the indigenous peoples. For this, we propose for the creation of Indigenous peoples, council or commission for conflict mandating to monitor the situation of human rights of indigenous peoples.

We would also urge UN Permanent Forum Members of the regions having armed conflict and war to urge the Security Council to pressure the respective Government for speedy and peaceful resolution of the conflict and that indigenous peoples concerns are respected and they be involved in the conflict resolution process.

Thank you, Madam Chair!