

Presented by Ms. Jennifer T. Carraz 2010/05/05, # 3, 212

**United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
4th Session**

**INDIGENOUS YOUTH CAUCUS STATEMENT
ITEM 5: FUTURE WORK OF THE FORUM**

As Indigenous Youth, we understand our historic place in the ongoing struggle for our existence as indigenous peoples, for our languages, life and land. It is imperative that we keep up with the relentless pace with which the forces of Corporate driven Globalization move toward a final assault on our collective rights. We realize that the current generations of Indigenous Youth will see our peoples through the close of the first century in this new millennium. We accept the responsibility to see to it that Indigenous Peoples arrive at the end of this century in better conditions than when we entered.

We, the indigenous youth, who represent the future of indigenous peoples, would like to put forth the following recommendations:

1. Recognizing and appreciating the progress made, but at the same time acknowledging that further work needs to be done, it is urged that recommendations from the Forum's past sessions that are of particular relevance to children and youth be implemented immediately.
2. Acknowledging that a healthy youth caucus has the potential to turn out new young leaders who are experienced in the UN system, it is urged that the Forum provide sustained support for the participation of Indigenous Youth in various UN processes. This will accelerate the achievement of the goals of the Forum, such as the Millenium Development Goals, so that these could become more widely known, diffused, and accepted amongst rural and isolated Indigenous Communities.
3. Because it is of vital importance that the Forum incorporate a youth perspective in all its areas of work, it is recommended that a seat on the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues be specifically created or allocated for an indigenous youth.
4. We recommend that the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum hire or designate a young indigenous staff person whose sole responsibility is to focus on matters involving indigenous youth.

5. We recommend that the Forum, in coordination with relevant UN agencies and governments, facilitate specific financing to bring 2 youth representatives from each region to the Permanent Forum meetings each year. Such representatives must be chosen in consultation with the Youth Caucus. Furthermore, gender balance must be ensured.

6. We recommend that the Forum, in coordination with relevant UN agencies, facilitate the funding and organization of a yearly training and capacity-building seminar for indigenous youth, to enable better understanding of the Permanent Forum's structure and work.

7. We urge the Forum to facilitate the creation of a fund to be used exclusively on projects and activities by and for indigenous youth.

8. We urge the Forum to recommend to the Voluntary Fund for the 2nd Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples the creation of a seat in the Board for an indigenous youth member.

9. We urge the Forum to strongly recommend to the UN agencies, especially those with youth programs, such as the UNDP Focus on Youth and the UN Youth Unit, the appointment an indigenous youth as focal person for Indigenous Youth Issues.

10. Recognizing that institutional memory of the Youth Caucus can be ensured by inviting youth from different regions to participate specifically in the Youth Caucus, it is urged that governments and indigenous organizations include an indigenous young person in their delegation.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to address the Forum, and we are looking forward to securing our future as Indigenous Peoples by working closely with you for the implementation of these recommendations in the years to come.