

*Presented by Ms. Mary Valenzuela*

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CAUCUS OF THE GREATER CARIBBEAN  
(IPCGC)**

**AGENDA ITEM 5 – FUTURE WORK ON THE PERMANENT FORUM**

Madam Chair, we welcome the Second Decade and we extend thanks to the UN General Assembly for proclaiming the Second Decade.

We encourage the Permanent Forum to focus on the recommendations previously made from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> Sessions. The Indigenous Peoples Caucus of the Caribbean makes the following recommendations:

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. We call on the Permanent Forum to request ECOSOC to recommend the expansion of the membership of the Permanent to include a direct Caribbean presence in the Forum.
2. That some of the Expert Members of the Permanent Forum visit the Caribbean regions including CARICOM to have a first hand knowledge on the situation of Indigenous Peoples.
3. To urge the UN Agencies, Programmes, Funds, and other donors to allocate funding for meetings in the Caribbean relating to Indigenous Issues including the proposed meetings that the Expert members will be participating in.
4. We urge the Permanent Forum to ensure the effective participation of Caribbean Indigenous Women to be reflected in the work of the Second Decade. We also urge the Permanent Forum to request ECOSOC to urge the Governments to recognize and respect Indigenous Women's Groups and their recommendations particularly with regard to the MDGs and the Goals of the Second Decade.
- 5 *To establish National and Regional Offices of the Permanent Forum in the Caribbean and to request the UN to provide adequate funding for these offices.*

**SECOND DECADE**

1. We call on the Permanent Forum to urge ECOSOC to recommend that governments in the Caribbean Region establish National Committees to deal with the activities of the Second Decade. The establishment of the Committees must include the effective and full participation of the Indigenous Peoples including

Indigenous Peoples Organisations. The Committees must participate in the evaluation of the second decade in achieving its goals.

2. We call on the Permanent Forum to assist in securing adequate funding for the region for the implementation of the Programme of Activities and the Plan of Action of the Second Decade for the Indigenous Peoples of the Greater Caribbean.
3. We support the call for the preservation of Sacred species be one of the goals of the Second Decade.
4. 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.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

5 To call on governments to support and encourage the building of alliances among the Indigenous Peoples including those separated by borders to revitalize and strengthen their culture.

Of specific concern is the World Bank's recent decision to require a process of free prior and informed consultation with affected indigenous peoples' communities to ascertain their broad community support for a project, rather than requiring the free prior and informed consent of the affected indigenous people. By merely requiring the World Bank to verify that the borrower has gained the "broad support from representatives of major sections of the community"- with no guarantees as to what information will be disclosed and when, how such verification will be conducted and by who, and how the collective decision-making processes and structures of the affected indigenous people will be recognized and respected- the free prior and informed consultation process stands to reduce indigenous peoples rights to a mere technical procedure. The weakening of free prior and informed consent as an international standard for indigenous peoples stands to severely threaten the lands, territories, and natural resources of indigenous peoples and to undermine their internationally recognized human rights.

We strongly urge that the Permanent Forum, in its activities under the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN Decade:

1. Coordinates the various UN bodies, mechanisms and processes with responsibility for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples (inter-alia, the UN Permanent Forum, Special Rapporteur on the Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples, UNWGIP and the Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights), to undertake studies and promote activities to further the accountability of the multilateral development banks to all applicable international human rights standards and to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of indigenous peoples in their policies and practices.
2. Calls upon the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues to report to the Permanent Forum and to the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples their detailed definitions of how free prior and informed consent, and/or broad community support, is to be defined, ascertained, verified, and complied with.
3. Calls upon the World Bank to create a mechanism which will guarantee the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in discussing and defining the meaning and application of conducting free prior and informed consultation and ascertaining broad community support with the Bank's management, legal counsel, and task teams (TT). Indigenous peoples' suggestions and comments should be reflected in the forthcoming Indigenous Peoples Guidebook and in any revisions made to BP 4.10.
4. Encourages the International Finance Corporation to conduct further consultations with indigenous peoples regarding the revision of its Performance Standards to ensure that indigenous peoples are able to provide recommendations as to how free prior and informed consent must be ascertained, and under which conditions, so as to ensure that indigenous peoples' customary land and natural resource rights are not undermined by the IFC and its private sector clients.