

Socolyu Hung Chien

PF 11103@14022

**Intervention to the Tenth Session of the
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2011
Global Indigenous Youth Caucus Statement - May 23, 2011
Agenda Item 6: Comprehensive dialogue with United Nations agencies and funds-
Comprehensive dialogue with the United Nations Children's Fund**

Thank you, Madam Chair.

On behalf of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, I welcome the launch of the UN Indigenous Peoples' Partnership. We are expecting further actions conducted by the Partnership to fully implement the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Partnership shall ensure the engagement and participation of indigenous youth and children in its work and processes.

Since the United Nations Children's Fund is the specialized agency of children, adolescent and youth, the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus strongly urges the Fund, in cooperation with relevant UN agencies, to take the following recommendations into serious consideration and translate the written words into action.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We request the Fund and other relevant UN agencies, for example, UNDP, OHCHR, UN Programme on Youth, ILO, UNESCO and UNFPA to cooperate closely with the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus and the Greenland-Based International Training Center of Indigenous Peoples to conduct regional and international youth training programs. This is to build the capacity of indigenous youth advocates to effectively respond to current and emerging human rights challenges.
2. According to the Forum's recommendation made in paragraph 31 (a) of its first session, a report was requested on the policies, guidelines and programs of UN agencies to be prepared with regard to the ways in which they address the specific needs of indigenous children. We request the Fund to prepare such a report with an extension on how the UN agencies are

implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with regard to indigenous youth and children.

3. In addition, we call for a specific international study on the situation of Indigenous Rights of Indigenous Children given the international pattern of disadvantage experienced by Indigenous children and young people and the importance of children in ensuring the perpetuity of Indigenous nations. This report should give special attention to States Parties implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment 11.
4. We again urge the Fund, as recommended by the Forum in paragraph 14 of its second session, and reiterated in paragraph 63 of its 5th session, to appoint indigenous youth as goodwill ambassadors to raise public awareness. These indigenous youth should have the appropriate knowledge and experience as to the specific needs of indigenous youth and children. We also request that all UNICEF ambassadors pay attention to the specific challenges faced by indigenous children and youth.
5. The Forum has recognized in paragraph 9 of its second session the need for new indicators that specifically target problems particularly faced by indigenous children and youth and, including in the areas of education, health, discrimination, culture, poverty, mortality, incarceration, forced and exploitative labour and other relevant areas. We urge the Fund, with the participation of indigenous youth and children, to develop such indicators and share them with other entities of the UN system.
6. We understand that issues relevant to indigenous youth and children are addressed in a cross-cutting manner in the Fund. Accordingly, we strongly recommend the Fund to appoint an indigenous rights specialist of indigenous origin or body as focal liaison for indigenous children and youth who should coordinate the Fund's projects, policies, programs and actions relevant to indigenous youth and children, in order to have a comprehensive monitoring and overview mechanism.

7. We strongly recommend the Fund to allocate at least one intern position to indigenous youth every year, for the term of at least three months, to empower indigenous youths and provide knowledge and experience on the UN system and the work of the Fund. This intern must also be provided at least nominal financial support during the internship period. We also urge other UN agencies to consider the opportunity to such a set up within their own relevant departments to empower indigenous youths with practical knowledge, experience and skill.
8. We strongly urge the Fund to ensure that when conducting reports, studies and planning projects and programs on indigenous youth and children, the participation of indigenous children and youth in every process is guaranteed with their Free, Prior and Informed Consent. Also, expert advice on indigenous socio-culture shall be called upon. Regarding the expert, it should be from an indigenous community itself and this factor will make a great difference.
9. The UNICEF document e/c.19/2011/7 talks mainly about the positive work of UNICEF in the developing countries. However, it should be noted that indigenous women and children in many so-called developed countries still remain to live in underdeveloped rural areas facing all the same problems as indigenous peoples of the south. Having this in mind, we urge the Fund to pay more attention to the indigenous youth and children of the Northern areas as well.
10. We strongly recommend and request the Fund to review the recommendations made by the Forum and Global Indigenous Youth Caucus in the previous sessions that are relevant to indigenous youth and children, especially those specifically referring to the Fund and greatly consider the urgency of indigenous youth and children as well as their power to assist them with the implementation of those recommendations.
11. We strongly recommend and request the Fund to coordinate their activities and operations with the UN Programme on Youth, the Secretariat of the Forum and the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, to ensure the participation of indigenous youth in the upcoming UN High-Level Meeting on Youth.

12. While climate change and environmental degradation is imposing tremendous impacts on indigenous youth and children, our voices are not reflected in UN decision-making processes and policies. We therefore strongly recommend and request the Fund to coordinate with other UN agencies and monitoring bodies working on environmental issues, including but not limited to UNEP, UNFCCC, and CBD to mainstream indigenous children and youth's role in the system.

To conclude this recommendation, I would like to restate that the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus has always been committed to working closely with the Secretariat of the Forum, UN agencies with specific mandate on children and youth, especially UNICEF, UN Programme on Youth, members of the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development.

Thank you, Madam Chair.