

Global Indigenous Women's Caucus
Sixteenth Session of the UNPFII April 24 - May 5, 2017

Madame Chair, on behalf of the Global Indigenous Women's Caucus (GIWC),

We submit the following recommendations:

Indigenous Peoples' have the right of self-determination in accordance with Article 3 of the UNDRIP and to full and effective participation in any decision-making that affects us. Furthermore, we call into question and reject any policies, procedures, and processes within the UN system that undermine or limit these rights.

1. Extractive industrial development destroys Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods, lands, resources and territories. We support the recommendation 7th Sessions report, that the World Bank and other multilateral and bilateral institutions implement alternative systems beyond the perpetuation of highly centralized fossil fuel-based energy supplies.

Furthermore, we demand the World Bank to divest from extractive and fossil fuel industries that continue to contaminate, pollute and poison our lands, territories, watersheds, rivers, oceans, and air. We further call upon UN agencies to divest from financial institutions that fund these damaging industries that threaten Indigenous Peoples and our livelihoods.

2. The GIWC reaffirms the recommendation from 12th Session, which acknowledges that states shall establish a monitoring mechanism to address violence against Indigenous Peoples, including assassinations, assassination attempts, rapes, and other intimidation tactics against Indigenous Peoples who are safeguarding their homelands and territories, with specific attention to actions perpetrated by State and local police, military, law enforcement institutions, the judiciary, and other State-controlled institutions.

3. Recalling of the recommendation during the 12th Session, GWIC urges UNESCO, the Convention on Biological Diversity and WIPO to work closely with Indigenous Peoples to develop an instrument to protect traditional knowledge and culture-based economic opportunities and activities as a potential way of strengthening Indigenous Peoples' identities'.

4. Echoing concerns 11th Session report, regarding violence against Indigenous women, we call upon the Permanent Forum to call on Member States to establish a monitoring mechanism to address the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous Women, and take measures, in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples, to ensure that Indigenous Women have full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence as stated in Article 22 of UNDRIP.

5. We affirm our position against Aquacide: the killing of the waters by dams, diversions, privatization, extractive industries, mega-agriculture, hydrofracking, commodification, and other ways that inhibit or preclude Water's ability to nurture and support Life, stated in the 10th Session's final report.

6. In closing, we echo the call for the Permanent Forum, UN Agencies and Indigenous Peoples to work collectively towards making the UNDRIP a convention, to ensure and safeguard our rights as Indigenous Peoples.

We have submitted the full text of this intervention to the secretariat, thank you for your full consideration of these recommendations.