

21st Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)
April 15– April 26 2024

Agenda Item 4 Discussion on the six mandated areas of the permanent forum
Intervention by the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus presented by: Anpo Jensen

Thank you Ms. Chair, mitakuyepi chante wasteya napecuyuzape. Anpotowin emaciyapi. Kiyuksa Oglala Lakota Tiospaye ematanhan. I am speaking on behalf of the The Global Indigenous Youth Caucus and we wish to congratulate you on your election.

We, the Indigenous youth from the seven regions of the world, express our gratitude to our elders for their conviction in protecting land rights, and cultural preservation through generations of activism and advocacy. We as Youth recognize the importance of accessing ancestral homelands and uplift the vital role of traditional knowledge transfer as it pertains to the protection of lands, waters and addressing the climate crisis globally. The neglect of cultural heritage protections and the forced removal of Indigenous children from their families and lands across the globe reflects a broad pattern of disregard for UNDRIP.

However, mining interests and government policies threaten these rights, leading to displacement, loss of life, denial of burial and ceremonial rights, and disruption of generational knowledge transfer.

Across the globe, the lack of Indigenous representation and education rooted in Indigenous perspectives perpetuates ignorance and hinders Indigenous self determination. Furthermore, treaties need to be recognized as vital climate change adaptation plans and legal frameworks, emphasizing the need for genuine relationship-building with the land and authority in decision-making processes.

In real time, we are witnessing the genocide and displacement of the Palestinian people. We demand the right of return to their ancestral homeland, the continued

funding of UNRWA, and uplift that the devastating humanitarian consequences of war and settler colonialism for geopolitical interests is an international crisis.

Therefore, we present the following recommendation to the UN Permanent Forum:

1. We call on the Permanent Forum to convene an Expert Working Group that explicitly connects the impacts of ethnic cleansing and forced removal of Indigenous Youth and Peoples from their ancestral homelands to the worsening climate crisis.

Thank you Ms. Chair. Hecetu, Wopila.