



Statement to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous issues

Agenda Item 4f

Education

**Centre for Organisation Research & Education
(CORE)**

Respected Brother Chairperson and Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Khurumjari! Respectful Greetings to All who are gathered here today, my brothers and sisters,

children and young people, friends and colleagues. My name is Jiten Yumnam, belonging to the

Meitei people of Manipur. I thank the Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network for endorsing this

statement. *AYMARA ALLIANCE, FIRST PEOPLES WORLDWIDE*

Hawaii Youth Delegation

RECOMMENDATIONS

We request the Permanent Forum to recommend

- That UNICEF, UNESCO and other UN agencies and organizations, prioritize measures for the protection of indigenous knowledge and transmission of such knowledge each according to their own mandate and relevance.
- That states and UN agencies take special note of the situation of indigenous children denied education in their own communities and therefore sent to boarding schools or similar institutions at great financial and emotional costs to the children themselves and to their future well being.
- That the World Bank and other financing institutions in their lending policies ensure that these lending policies especially where their lending directly concerns the capacity building for education purposes in developing countries maintain clear norms and standards that governments respect the rights of indigenous children to education according to international treaty standards and policy commitments.
- That the Committee on the Rights of the Child with its focus on culture in the workshops of the General Discussion Day, September 2003, take particular note of the fact that indigenous

languages are endangered languages and pay special attention to this issue in their discussions.

- That UNESCO step up its activities focused on indigenous culture and languages and on supporting governments to develop programmes on these which include the protection and promotion of the knowledge holders and on support to indigenous peoples own efforts to educate their children appropriately.

The critical issue of education of our children and young people cannot be over stressed. We have some recommendations, which we respectfully place before the members of this forum regarding the issue of knowledge transmission and education. Our children have the unquestionable rights to education as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 30. This entitles them not only to full and undiscriminated access to general and formal education systems but also to education according to their own cultures and in their own languages. This first of all means that our languages, the holders of such indigenous knowledge and the respect and development of these knowledge systems and holders must be respected and appropriate and adequate facilities be put in place for their preservation and protection, development and transmission.

The education imposed on the indigenous children and youths has been a form of colonization, and a process of assimilation and loss of our language and culture becomes a phenomenon in our residential schools. The government's negligence and lack of support, disparity of facilities and quality of education, inadequate facilities, programs, curriculum and teacher training has further accentuated the situation.

Aymara Alliance