

**Statement submitted at the 18th Sessions of the UN Permanent Forum on
Indigenous Issues on the Follow-Up to the Outcome Document of the WCIP
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Areas) and JOAS (Indigenous Peoples' Network Malaysia)**

Mdm Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the UNVF for the support given to enable me to attend and participate in the dialogues sessions and other events during this 18th Session.

I wish to highlight that after five years of the acceptance and endorsement of the Outcome Document of the WCIP which contained numerous commitments by the UN and the States, there are still a number of concerns and issues faced by indigenous peoples in many states of my country Malaysia. These issues and concerns are relating to the ongoing cases of encroachment and landgrabbing involving the native customary rights to lands, territories and resources which affect and unjustly deprive our people to their lands and resources vital for their livelihoods, cultural identity, economic survival and dignity as people. These ongoing and unabated encroachment and issuance of plantation leases to companies seriously affect and destroy the lands and resources but also deprive the indigenous communities to maintain their traditional knowledge of managing the forest and other resources which have been in practice to ensure the sustainability of the resources within their respective territories inhabited by them for many generations.

Mdm Chair, the underlying problems and causes of these cases of violations are the inadequate and controversial laws and policies to recognise and protect our native customary rights to our traditional lands, territories and resources and coupled with the lack of or inadequate measures and mechanisms put in place to ensure that the rights of our peoples in our respective states and villages are protected in line with the provisions stipulated under the UNDRIPs. There is still lack of enforcement or measures to implement the principle of FPIC in the planning, designing, implementation and monitoring of development plans and projects. As a result, there are still numerous cases of disputes and conflicts between the indigenous peoples and private companies and remain unresolved.

In view of the above issues and ongoing injustices affecting our people who are located in remote parts of the country, JOAS and ICCA would like to recommend the following;

1. The PFII and the EMRIP to urge the states to take immediate measures to formulate mechanism to ensure the compliance of the principle of FPIC in development policies and programmes;

2. The PFII and UN agencies to urge the Federal and State governments of Malaysia to adopt and implement the recommendations made by SUHAKAM following the national inquiry to customary lands of indigenous peoples in Malaysia i 2013.

3. That the Federal and State government and authorities concerned take

immediate measures iand ensure nvolving the participation of the IPs in the country to fulfill the States commitments outlined in the Outcome Document of the WCIP

Tiga Tawai! Thank You!