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**Intervention to the Tenth Session of the
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2011
Global Indigenous Youth Caucus Statement - May 23, 2011**

**Agenda Item 8: Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues of the Economic and
Social Council and emerging issues**

Madam Chair,

The Global Indigenous Youth Caucus would like to extend our support for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014 and ask to participate in all stages of the event including conference planning, discussion and review of issues facing indigenous peoples. In paragraph 101 in its seventh session, the Permanent Forum recommended that indigenous youth continue to contribute to the decision-making processes concerning, therefore we, the voices of the Indigenous youth, expect extra attention to be paid to the following recommendations.

Indigenous youth should also continue to contribute to other UN Conferences, including the Rio+20 Conference on sustainable development in 2012. In its seventh session in paragraph 100, the Permanent Forum recognized the contributions indigenous youths can make to the particular discussion of climate change or mitigation. This is most important for indigenous youth to carry on the work of our elders protecting our lands, territories and resources and thereby maintaining our cultural heritage.

Accordingly, the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus makes the following recommendations:

1. The Permanent Forum recommend an **indigenous youth** member to represent and enforce the views and needs of indigenous youth .
2. We request the United Nations ECOSOC Youth Unit and Inter-Agency Support Group to guarantee nomination and participation of at least two youth representatives for all relevant planning stages of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and Rio+20 conference, and all subsequent UN high level conferences. The Global Indigenous Youth Caucus would be willing to coordinate these roles.
3. That a strategic action plan for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples be developed for consideration by the next Permanent forum in 2012. This is to give all members and indigenous peoples, including youth to consider the issues for a well-developed discussion.

4. The Permanent Forum and the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples are strongly urged and requested to include an agenda item focusing on the special needs of indigenous Women, Children and Youth, considering their particular vulnerabilities and capabilities.

In addition to participation in the above, we strongly urge the following vital issues pertinent to Indigenous Youth to be addressed :

1. Increased public health awareness of high suicide rate, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, drug and substance abuse among indigenous youth. We call for more funding to be allocated to peer-to-peer education and prevention strategies.
2. We request the Permanent Forum to appoint an inter-agency support group to conduct a study regarding pre-existing and emerging issues such as urban Indigenous youth displacement, unrecognized and under-represented indigenous youth, their access and connection to land/culture, and protection as it relates to international human rights mechanisms. A study should be conducted to examine Indigenous youth that are particularly susceptible to the effects of modernization at the expense of the loss of traditional cultural identity.
3. Education is essential to youth empowerment as our fundamental right. We call for equal access to education designed for our needs that reflects our world views. We call for greater support for indigenous education, at academic, policy, and financial level, which will assist to end discrimination of the indigenous peoples, and promote respect of our culture, language, rituals, and traditional knowledge. We also call for a continuous fight to preserve and restore our indigenous languages.
4. When the modern sovereign states defined border lines they were not in respect to indigenous territories. Therefore, we strongly request the Forum and relevant decision-making bodies in the UN to grant access to the Forum on our indigenous nations rather than on nationality.
5. We request the Permanent Forum to ensure the participation of indigenous youth and representation to partake all associated meeting and conferences regarding access and beneficiary. In addition, we request the Permanent Forum act as an acting internal review board for access and beneficiary rights.