

Sixteenth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Item 11: Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples
(b) Ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations
Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation
Speaker: Virginia Thach

Madame Chair,

The Khmer Krom people to this day remain unrecognized as an indigenous culture to those who believe that the Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation has an insidious political agenda. It is difficult as a youth alone to implore from agencies such as the United Nations to help the Khmer Krom people without the feeling of despair and frustration, as once again we must ask for help. We do not ask for unmerited prestige or a repugnant reputation as an organization, but for the revitalization of a rich culture that is being robbed from the Khmer Krom peoples.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- We ask that the UNPFII increase the amount for Indigenous peoples only closed-sessions. This allows indigenous peoples who may not be able to speak on the behalf of their IPs during the forum be able to speak without fear of government intervention
- Create a mechanism within the UNPFII that helps IPs attending the UNPFII for the first time. While DOCIP offers resources for every IPO attending the session,
- State the shortcomings or the limitations within all studies, reports, or documentation concerning the indigenous peoples in order to identify what progress is being made and what has yet to be done

Thank you, Madame Chair