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**Statement by Beverley Jacobs, Native Women's Association of Canada  
Indigenous Women and MDG #1: Eradication of Poverty and Hunger  
Fourth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues - May 17, 2005**

We agree with previous statements from Indigenous Peoples that there must be a rights-based approach to the Millennium Development Goals – the collective rights of our peoples must be recognized.

Indigenous women are the primary providers of subsistence. When the rights to natural resources and livelihoods of Indigenous women are denied, it has an overarching impact on the community, particularly the most vulnerable, such as the children, the elderly and the sick, since women are typically the caregivers. The impact of development affects Indigenous women in a disproportionately negative manner, in terms of extreme poverty and hunger. This is well-documented in the *U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Report on the third session (10-21 May 2004)*. In particular, we call for the Permanent Forum and relevant actors to fully implement the recommendations contained in Chapter I, Section B, paragraphs 2 to 13. These recommendations call for addressing gendered racial discrimination facing Indigenous women, the specific impacts of globalization and the loss of natural resources and the depletion of the ecosystem and traditional economies on Indigenous women. The compilation and integration of disaggregated data on the basis of race and gender is required. The full and effective participation of Indigenous women is required in all areas. We call upon all relevant bodies to ensure the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 2 to 13 as one way to work towards the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger for Indigenous women and their families.

The conditions of and stresses of coping with poverty breeds conflict and violence within the community and between communities, particularly against Indigenous women, children and the elderly. Any poverty reduction strategy must include a strategy to address violence and conflict.

As a strong national Aboriginal women's organization, we have worked hard to address violence and have been successful in our Sisters in Spirit Campaign – addressing the estimated 500 missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada. Many of these women lived in extreme poverty and had to find ways to survive and feed their families. As a result, they lost their lives.

Women are traditionally peacemakers and this status should be reinforced for the betterment of Indigenous Peoples.