

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues,
Fourteenth Session
April 21st May 2015
Global Indigenous Youth Caucus

Thank you Madame Chair,

1. Free, Prior And Informed Consent

On April 2nd, 2015, 32 indigenous people were arrested on Mauna kea for protecting their sacred site from the building of the thirty meter telescope without free prior and informed consent of indigenous people in despite of UNDRIP Article 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 26, 27 and 32, such violation will result in the loss of land and desecration of sacred sites. This has caused a large amount of friction for the people of the pacific. Currently there are discussions as to whether some Australian Indigenous communities should still be supported. Without such support, these communities would not be able to continue to exist. Additionally, dumping of radioactive waste and nuclear testing on indigenous held lands are still ongoing issues across some states in Pacific region without FPIC.

We request permanent forum to work with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of indigenous peoples and inter-agency support groups to conduct a research of the implementation of UNDRIP on the Pacific Region. Within this report, two major topics should be addressed on.

First, the ongoing land issues in the pacific region, where multi-national corporations and state governments neglect free, prior and informed consent.

Second, a thorough review of the mechanisms available to correct the wrongdoing in violation of UNDRIP.

We would like to remind the member states of their commitment to pursuit their support to Indigenous peoples right to their land and cultural practices by ensuring their support in co-operation with Indigenous communities.

2. Cultural Revitalization

In the pacific region, indigenous youth are concerned of the loss of indigenous culture and danger of assimilation, indigenous youth initiated cultural revitalization projects to preserve traditional way of life. However, the exercise of these projects has a lack of sufficient financial support and adequate attention of indigenous communities.

Our recommendation is based on UNDRIP, Outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples section 15, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 30.

We recommend that members of UN inter-agency support group on indigenous peoples issues provide assistance and guidance to the state governments to facilitate Indigenous youth to design cultural revitalization programs, and establish capacity-building trainings to indigenous youth and children. Furthermore, to conduct a thorough review of programs available to indigenous youth, identify gap of implementation methods.

The state government should provide support to indigenous youth's initiatives and activities that revitalize our indigenous cultures designed by and for indigenous youth according to our diverse traditions and cultures.

Regarding the fund supporting indigenous cultural revitalization programs, the funding processes should be flexible, sustainable and accessible for smaller agencies or community-based groups or organizations.

3. Care Service

The state governments have been intervening the traditional caring systems, neglecting the unique cultural practice of various indigenous communities. Whenever the state creates indigenous policy, such indigenous policy is always developed in centralized government agencies.

We recommend the Forum to encourage member states to support indigenous caring systems that are community-designed and based upon indigenous traditions and cultures, allowing the indigenous community to have discretion to find the most suitable way to provide care service, bearing in mind, caring policy should not merely be exclusive to physical treatment, yet it should involve community social support and spiritual care.

4. Create A Pacific Youth Forum

Due to the geographical difficulty of the Pacific region, we are rarely represented in the UNPFII. According to recommendations of the 9th and 12th Permanent Forums indigenous peoples should have the right to full and effective participation.

We urge the Permanent Forum to ensure the full and effective participation of Pacific indigenous youth, we request the permanent forum to assist and give guidance to facilitate the establishment of a Pacific Indigenous Youth Forum, and the inter-agency support groups on indigenous peoples issues, especially UNICEF and UNESCO to provide financial assistance to ensure long-term and sustainable operation of Pacific indigenous youth forum, and the participation of Pacific indigenous youth in such forum.

5. Correct term "Indigenous Peoples" in the UN translation system.

Terminology of translation in some languages in the Permanent Forum contains several misconceptions. We urge the Permanent Forum to immediately correct the terminology of translation to truly recognize indigenous peoples' inherent rights as well as to recognize them as natives to the lands they live in.