

Agenda Item 9 – Agenda for the 11th Session

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Tenth Session

ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CAUCUS STATEMENT

Thank you Madame Chair. I am speaking on behalf of the Asia Indigenous Peoples' Caucus.

In this Agenda Item, the Asia Caucus has discussed what we think is most relevant considering the global processes which we will be facing in the coming months and years.

We believe that we have to contribute significantly to the Rio + 20 conference and to the preparatory work for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

In this context, we would like to reiterate what we proposed in our statement under the Agenda Item on Future Work. We propose that the Expert Workshop for 2011 will be on "Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Development". This will allow indigenous peoples all over the world to present their visions and their experiences in implementing their own development with culture and identity. We need to present actual ways in which we are operationalizing sustainable development in our communities and countries. It is without any doubt that sustainable development has not been implemented as it should be and we need to identify what are the factors for this failure.

The multiple crisis the world faces in the economic, environment and cultural spheres are enough evidences to prove this failure. In spite of this, however, we, the indigenous peoples' have been doing our best to protect and sustainably manage our ecosystems and territories and this is the reason why we are able to implement our own sustainable development. We face severe constraints because many policies and programmes of States and even multilateral bodies are not supportive of our traditional livelihoods and traditional natural resource management systems. Thus, we would like the Permanent Forum to help us in our struggles to get governments to respect and implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which is the framework for achieving sustainable development in our communities.

So in conclusion, the Asia Caucus strongly urges the Permanent Forum members to organize an expert workshop on "Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Development" which can gather the recommendations of indigenous peoples which will be presented at the Rio + 20 Conference and related processes.

Thank you Madame Chair.

VICTORIA TAULI-CORPUZ