

**Intervention to the Tenth Session of the
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2011
Global Indigenous Youth Caucus Statement - May 18, 2011
Agenda Item 4(a): Implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of
Indigenous Peoples**

Thank you, Madam Chair,

The Global Indigenous Youth Caucus acknowledges that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration) is the culmination of the many views in setting the minimum standard of rights for Indigenous peoples.

The Declaration makes specific mention in Article 22 as to attention that must be paid to Indigenous youth in its implementation. As stated, it must be ensured that Indigenous youth enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination, in exercising their human rights. This is pertinent to us, as we have the responsibility of protecting and passing on traditional knowledge and cultural heritage to future generations.

The Global Indigenous Youth Caucus recommends the following:

1. We request the Permanent Forum to ask states that previously abstained from voting on the adoption of the Declaration to reconsider their position. These include Russian Federation, Kenya, Bangladesh, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Burundi, Georgia, Nigeria and the Ukraine.
2. We recommend the Permanent Forum to urge member states to consider Article 38 of the Declaration in full consultation and cooperation with Indigenous youth throughout state legislative drafting processes.
3. We recommend that states and UN agencies provide support and mechanisms for Indigenous peoples and their organizations to demonstrate how they have implemented the Declaration for themselves. These examples would form the basis of a “Global Best Practices Guide” on the implementation of the Declaration from an Indigenous youth perspective.
4. We request the Inter Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples’ Issues assess and nominate an appropriate United Nations Agency to compile a database and case studies showing the progress of member nations and organizations regarding Indigenous Youth rights in the implementation of the Declaration. Case Studies can then be used as means of creating model frameworks for how the Declarations can be implemented in other nation states wishing to adopt national legislation.
5. Furthermore, according to the Forum’s recommendation made in its first session, paragraph 31 (a) a report was requested on the policies, guidelines and programs of United Nations agencies to be prepared with regard to the ways in which they address the specific needs of indigenous children. We request such a report to be prepared immediately with the extension on how the UN agencies are implementing the Declaration with regard to indigenous youth and children.

6. Article 41 of the Declaration stipulates that UN organs and specialized agencies contribute to its full realization through financial cooperation and technical assistance. Specifically, we recommend that Indigenous youth are given this support to provide input within meetings and reports involving UNESCO's international guidelines on sexuality education as well as UNICEF's strategic framework on Indigenous youth and HIV.
7. We recommend to the Permanent Forum to urge UN agencies, treaty bodies, member states and the Special Rapporteur to create and support of reporting mechanism for human rights violation of Indigenous youth, such as international tribunals, expert working groups and additional resources for the special rapporteur.
8. We request the Secretariat of the Forum and UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNDP, and UN Programme on Youth, cooperate closely with the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus to conduct regional and international training programs building the capacity of indigenous youth, activists, and defenders in how to respond effectively to current and emerging human rights challenges. Training programs should also aim to increase skills and knowledge of UN mechanisms in how more effectively lobbying and strategy creation for advocacy on how to implement the Declaration on national and international levels.

Thank you, Madam Chair.