

**UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Tenth Session  
May 16-27, 2011  
Global Indigenous Women's Caucus Statement**

**Agenda Item 8  
Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues of the Economic  
and Social Council and emerging issues.**

The Global Indigenous Women's Caucus acknowledges the Ninth Session Report of the Permanent Forum, Doc. No. E/2010/43-E/C.19/2010/15, and the Preliminary study of the impact on Indigenous Peoples of the international legal construct known as the Doctrine of Discovery, Doc. No. E/C.19/2010/13, by Special Rapporteur Tonya Gonnella Frichner. The Preliminary study reiterates its call for additional attention, study and documentation of the racism of Christian discovery, and the manner in which the doctrine of Christian discovery has been constructed, elaborated, applied and extended in law, policy, socio-cultural practices, through both secular and religious practices. It further sets the stage for the Doctrine's eradication and reversal as a fundamental element of colonialism, imperialism as well as violence against indigenous women and Mother Earth.

1. We, the Global Indigenous Women's Caucus recommend that an international expert group meeting be convened January 2012 to discuss the findings and implications of the preliminary study of the Doctrine of Discovery, and to present its findings to the UNPFII 11th session. Further study and review will be needed to ascertain to what extent and how the Doctrine of Discovery and the framework of domination are applied to Indigenous Peoples throughout the world.

We also like to remind the Permanent Forum of the recommendations for future work that have been made in previous agenda items at the 10<sup>th</sup> session:

2. We call upon the Permanent Forum to organize in the future, an expert group meeting to address the impacts of environmental toxins on the health of indigenous women, including on their reproductive health. We also urge the Permanent Forum to make health a special theme of one of its sessions.
3. We welcome the Permanent Forum's recognition that Indigenous peoples' development is intimately linked with education and urge the Permanent Forum to further advance its recommendation that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other United Nations agencies convene an Expert Group Meeting on bilingual, intercultural and multilingual education.