

**United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 17<sup>th</sup> Session, 16 – 27 April 2018**  
**Agenda Item 3: Follow up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum**  
**International Indian Treaty Council statement presented by Andrea Carmen, April 16, 2018**

Thank you Madame Chair. We congratulate Special Rapporteur Tuncak for the excellent preliminary conclusions of his legal review of the UN Rotterdam Convention based on Human Rights Standards including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the UN Conventions on Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Rights of the Child as recommended by the Permanent Forum in paragraph 46 of its 16<sup>th</sup> session report.

The Rapporteur's preliminary findings represent a significant advance in the work of the Forum. We remember all the children from our Yaqui Nation in Sonora Mexico who have suffered and died since the IITC first brought the human rights impacts of the export and import of banned pesticides to the attention of the Forum many years ago. I celebrate this progress with the hope that other children's lives may be saved once this odious practice is halted.

The Special Rapporteur also presented his preliminary findings yesterday at Columbia University to the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Indigenous Women's Symposium on Environmental and Reproductive Health focusing on environmental violence, which has been recognized by the Permanent Forum since 2012. Among the recommendations adopted by more than 100 participants from all regions was a commitment to support the Special Rapporteur's continued work on this review in the coming year.

We also greatly appreciated the participation of the Chair, two other Permanent Forum members and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Symposium recommendations also call on the Permanent Forum and the Interagency Support Group to continue focusing attention on Reproductive Health and Environment Violence in accordance with their respective mandates. We will present the full list of recommendations to the Forum this week, highlighting those directly relevant to its mandate which we request be noted in the report of the 17<sup>th</sup> session.

I also am happy to report progress on Forum recommendations from 2015, 2016 and 2017 supporting the call by Indigenous Peoples, based on Articles 11 and 12 of the UN Declaration and Operative Paragraph 27 of the WCIP outcome document, for the establishment of a new UN mechanism for International Repatriation of Indigenous Peoples' human remains and sacred items. Although we still have far to go to establish the new mechanism, a significant advance was made in the recognition of Indigenous Peoples right to repatriation in UNESCO's new policy on Indigenous Peoples, adopted in August 2017, as called for by EMRIP and IITC at the last Permanent Forum session. We were also able to organize a dialogue on next steps with representatives of IITC, UNESCO, EMRIP and the Permanent Forum at the July 2017 session of the Expert Mechanism. We will continue to update the Forum on the progress. Thank you.