

11th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Agenda Item 9 on Future work of the Forum

Statement by Asia Indigenous Peoples Caucus
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Thank You Mr. Chairperson

Before presenting my intervention, let me thank the Chairperson and members of the Permanent Forum for giving us another opportunity to speak today on the agenda item on human rights. In the afternoon session yesterday, not a single speaker representing indigenous communities from Asia who enlisted in the speakers' list was called to speak.

With this background, we therefore recommend to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to improve its guidelines on speakers and interventions in the spirit of giving ample time for meaningful and equal participation and intervention of indigenous peoples in this Forum. Considering that human rights continue to be in the top concern of indigenous peoples especially in Asia where diverse indigenous peoples are concentrated, we also recommend that this be given enough time in the succeeding sessions of the Forum.

A key value of the Permanent Forum is for indigenous peoples own voices from the grassroots to be heard and respected in the UN. Current arrangements are making this more difficult and there is too much weighting to umbrella groups and caucus statements. This is made more pronounced as agenda items increase if such groups are given priority on each new agenda item. The situation should be addressed to provide a more equitable arrangement that allows greater opportunity for organizations and peoples to speak on their own behalf.

Mr Chairperson, Members of the Permanent Forum, Indigenous Sisters, Brothers and Friends

The abusive, unsustainable and socially and environmentally destructive practices and policies of corporations and states, para militaries and others supporting and facilitating the operations of mining oil, gas projects large, dam construction and other abusive projects have always been a main and recurring concern of indigenous peoples submissions to the UNPFII and all the other cries for justice of indigenous peoples. Grave abuses including killings, rape, forced relocation, destruction of subsistence, intimidation by military and para military groups continue in support of the operations of corporations including those that are well know and still seen as "respectable". The passage and implementation of the UN Declaration should change this. But there is a serious continuing problem because it is equally clear to us as victims and long term observers of the extractive industries that mining and other corporations continue to drag their feet on the implementation of necessary changes. Too often both corporations and government are prepared to continue with abusive practices and unsustainable output levels and environmental and social impacts as long as they continues to yield financial profit.

The Asian Indigenous caucus in cooperation with the Indigenous Peoples and Extractive Industries Network, (that was formed at the time of the holding of the UNPFII expert workshop held in Manila in 2009), and taking account of the important report to this meeting of the UN Special Rapporteur Professor Anaya which referred to his ongoing researches into the many issues arising from the

operation of extractive industries on or near the lands of indigenous peoples therefore calls for A special focus upon extractives in the 2013, 12th session of the forum including the holding of a half day session on the issues arising from the operation of extractives project including mining oil and gas activities and the imposed construction of large dams on or near indigenous territories, which are usually accompanied by militarization.

The problem of militarization through the use of government armed forces, para military security forces both official and unofficial as methods of intimidation and imposing unwanted projects is a particular and grave threat to indigenous peoples in many regions. We therefore further call for an expert study on this aspect of the suppression of indigenous rights and the imposition of unwelcome mining and other projects to contribute to the half day session.

We further propose inviting representatives of one or more of affected indigenous peoples to join a panel of presenters, the UN Special Rapporteur, UN EMRIP, and UN Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations to share their own findings and thoughts. And contribute to making recommendations that might strengthen the practice of respect for rights contained in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

On the World Bank we are gravely concerned that the proposed revisions of the safeguards policies of the Bank will result in weaker protection of the rights of indigenous peoples at a time when it is clear to us stronger safeguards and rigorous independent monitoring are essential to the realisation of the promises of the Declaration and other safeguards of our rights.

The Permanent Forum has a critical role to play in ensuring that the World Bank meets its obligations to implement the UN Declaration. Financing of World Bank in climate change under the Climate Investment Fund, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), WB call for inclusive green growth for sustainable development, and the on-going three years review process of its social and environmental safeguards policies, including the Indigenous Peoples Policy.

We propose that the World Bank be asked to make a presentation during the Inter-Agency Support Group during the Permanent Forum 2013 to provide space for the Permanent Forum, Indigenous Peoples, Governments and the WB to engage in constructive dialog. We further propose inviting the new President of the World Bank to be present.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson