



**United Nations
Economic and Social Council
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Third Session
May 10-21, 2004**

**Collective Statement of the International Indigenous Youth Caucus
Agenda Item 4 (a): Economic and Social Development**

Agreeing Organizations:

Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, Ka Lahui Hawai'i, Land is Life, The Saartjie Baartman Indigenous Medicine Institute, The International Indian Treaty Council, International Association for Volunteer Efforts, Indigenous Dialogues Foundation, Women's League of Burma, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, the Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights, Taino Nation of Antilles and Hui Ho'oulu Incorporated.

I am speaking on behalf of the Indigenous Youth representatives from the countries of Canada, South Africa, Australia, Tanzania, Mali, Burma, United States of America, Asia and Hawai'i. We stand in solidarity with the Pacific Caucus joint statement as their recommendations have originated from the First Pacific Region Permanent Forum Consultation held on March 15-17, 2004 in Nadave, Suva, Fiji. We hope that these recommendations will be highlighted in the final report and implemented by all UN agencies concerned.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the *Permanent Forum* request UNDP Office to undertake small business training capacity building and technological assistance for small business development for the indigenous peoples/youth.
2. That the *Permanent Forum* request World Bank to conduct training on how to access the Small Grant Programme and the World Bank Grant Facility for indigenous youth in various regions of the World.

3. Recommend that UNDP provide funds to indigenous youth organizations/NGOs/ and CSOs for the documentation of economic systems of indigenous peoples/youth.
4. Recommend an Indigenous Youth Trade Forum.
5. That the Permanent Forum request UNDP, WTO to provide funds to the indigenous youth NGOs and CSOs for the assessment, documentation and protection of indigenous peoples/youth, biological, intellectual and cultural property rights.
6. That the Permanent Forum requests UNDP to provide funds to indigenous youth NGOs and CSOs for the assessment and documentation of the current status of natural resource – base of the indigenous countries.

Mr. Chairman,

All economic and social development issues for Indigenous youth stem from our dispossession and removal from our lands that directly results in genocide and poor socio-economic conditions, including inadequate education and employment opportunities, poverty, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, criminal behavior, and short life expectancy. Therefore, Indigenous peoples must be guaranteed lands and resources subject to Indigenous control upon which we can freely determine our own economic and social development.

With this in mind, the International Indigenous Youth Caucus calls upon the PFII to immediately advise the appropriate bodies within the UN system to immediately adopt the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Mahalo (Thank you), Mr. Chairman.