

Collective Statement: Future Work of the Forum

**Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs
Indigenous Networks on Economies and Trade**

**Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Third Session**

New York, 10-21 May, 2004

Item 5, Mandated Area: Future Work of the Forum



This is a collective statement by the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs and the Indigenous Networks on Economies and Trade. We make the following recommendations to the permanent forum:

Recommendations:

1. The themes and mandated areas of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues must in future deal directly with the most critical and important issues: Self Determination, Sovereignty and Land Rights. The themes for the Permanent Forum over the course of the next few years must therefore be: Self Determination, Sovereignty and Land Rights.
2. The Permanent Forum engages in a campaign to promote traditional and Indigenous-based economies.

Background and Rationale:

3. It is clear that major economic developments are infringing upon Indigenous rights. This has caused conflict and loss of life and these controversial issues must not be ignored but dealt with head-on by the United Nations. Leadership in this regard should come from the Permanent Forum.
4. In British Columbia the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and Indigenous communities from across the province are joining in Victoria. The province's capital protect their Indigenous rights and sovereignty.
5. Permanent Forum should be a clearing house and resource base on traditional values, knowledge and activities because agreements like the Convention on Biological Diversity and institutions like WIPO and the World Bank have been inappropriately defining these concepts without any capacity or knowledge.
6. The Permanent Forum is the ideal forum to provide an information base for Indigenous people to promote all of their

ownership, planning and management of their lands and resources to protect the ecological and biological diversities of their territories.

Thank you.

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