



**UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Twelfth Session
May 20th -31st, 2013**

**Global Indigenous Women's Caucus Statement presented by Sandra Creamer
Agenda Item 7(a) Human Rights: Implementation of the United Nations
Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.**

**Honorable Chairperson, Members of the Permanent Forum, Sisters and
Brothers,**

We are honored to address you with our perspective on the "Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples". We welcome this opportunity to engage in a dialogue with the members of the Permanent Forum. The Global Indigenous Women's Caucus supports the Permanent Forum in its consistent emphasis on free, prior and informed consent, and the right for women to live free from all forms of violence, as stated in Articles 10, 19, and 22 of the UNDRIP. For Indigenous Women water is life, and necessary for our physical, cultural and spiritual survival, these issues are key to the protection of our basic human rights as Indigenous Peoples.

The Global Indigenous Women's caucus has made the following recommendations:

1. As stated in paragraph 82 of the Tenth Session, we urge States to recognize and protect indigenous peoples' cultural right to water. This is consistent with article 25 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Water is sacred and for indigenous women, it is an integral part of our ceremonies. We ask the Permanent Forum to urge states to respect and promote access to water for spiritual and ceremonial purposes, as affirmed under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Furthermore, the pollution of such water, as well as other sacred sites, constitutes a violation of our basic and fundamental human rights. Indigenous women have taken a strong position to halt Aquacide by all forms of exploitation, commodification, and other assaults that impede or destroy our basic human right to water, therefore we call upon the UNPFII and other UN agencies concerned with water, to support the planning, development and implementation of an Indigenous World Forum on Water in 2014.
2. Recalling Paragraph 83 of the Tenth Session, we urge States to include indigenous women in decision-making processes in all areas of water management, including commercial use, irrigation and environmental management, and to ensure that such decision-making processes are consistent with the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular its article 32, under which the free and informed consent of indigenous peoples is required prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources.
3. We reiterate the 38th paragraph of the Tenth Session, which noted the number of interventions by indigenous peoples alarmed at the denial of their right to free, prior and informed consent in relation to extractive industries and other forms of large- and small-scale development. As women, we support the recommendation

of the Permanent Forum that States and international financial and aid institutions systematically monitor, evaluate, assess and report on how free, prior and informed consent has or has not been recognized and applied with respect to the lands, territories and resources of the indigenous peoples concerned.

4. We acknowledge the importance of the full range of human rights of indigenous peoples, including traditional knowledge, culturally appropriate procedures to ensure communication, information, and scheduling, as cited in Paragraph 39 of the Tenth Session. We reiterate the Permanent Forum's call for all United Nations agencies and intergovernmental agencies to include indigenous women in the implantation of policies, procedures and mechanisms that ensure the right of indigenous peoples to free, prior and informed consent consistent with their right to self-determination as reflected in common article 1 of the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which makes reference to permanent sovereignty over natural resources.
5. Recognizing that Indigenous women have the right to live free from all forms of violence as a basic human right, we reiterate the Permanent forum's recommendation from paragraph 47 of its Fifth Session, that appropriate United Nations organizations, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as well as States, take immediate action to review and monitor the situation of indigenous women and provide comprehensive reports on violence against indigenous women and girls, particularly sexual violence and violence in the context of armed conflict. Indigenous women must be full participants in this process.

In conclusion, we thank the Permanent Forum for your consideration of full implementation of these recommendations.