

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

May 16th to May 27th, 2011

UN Headquarters, New York, NY

Agenda Item 9: Daft Agenda for the 11th Session of the Permanent Forum

Presented by Kenneth Deer, Mohawk Nation, Indigenous World Association

Organization of work, side events and meeting room.

The lack of space which prevents Indigenous Peoples from attending the Permanent Forum and are left standing in the hallways is unacceptable for a forum that is supposed to be for Indigenous Peoples and about Indigenous Peoples.

We understand that there are limits to space because of the renovation of the UN Headquarters building, but we cannot have 500 or more registered participants with no place to go.

We strongly recommend that an overflow room be available for these people and that the Permanent Forum insist from conference services that this space be made available.

Another suggestion is to allow side events during session time.

At this and previous sessions side events are only allowed during the lunch period between 1 and 3 pm because the Permanent Forum wanted participants in the room and not distracted.

However, if participants can't get into the room, than side events during the morning and afternoon sessions would give participants some constructive activities to get involved in. These side events could be chosen in a manner not to conflict with the substantive discussion of that particular session. For instance it could be side events on documentaries, training, information and other activities and issues.

We believe that these two recommendations can help alleviate the frustrations that Indigenous representatives feel when they attend the Permanent Forum and cannot get into the main meeting room. Continuation of the status quo could negatively impact future attendance.

Thank you for considering these recommendations.

Kenneth Deer
Indigenous World Association