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**Statement by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Commission,  
the Asian Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Network, the Inuit  
Circumpolar Conference, the Tebbteba Foundation and the Saami  
Council**

**The Second Session of the Permanent Forum on  
Indigenous Issues**

New York 13 to 24, May, 2003

**Agenda Item 4 (a) - Economic and Social Development**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

This statement is made jointly by the Asian Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Network, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Commission, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Tebbteba Foundation and the Saami Council.

We underline that respect for and recognition of indigenous peoples' genetic resources, expressions of culture and traditional knowledge systems is central in achieving of human and environmental stability and economical and social development in indigenous societies. Therefore, we recommend that the Permanent Forum,

Notes that the future mandate of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore will be considered by the Committee at its session in July 2003, and expresses the wish that the mandate of the Committee have as its clear objective the continued development of mechanisms, systems and tools that adequately protect the genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and expressions of culture of indigenous peoples at national, regional and international levels;

**Calls upon** the WIPO Committee to continue to cooperate where relevant with other organizations and agencies within the UN system, such as the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (the CBD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Food and Agricultural Organization (the FAO) and the United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);

**Welcomes and encourages** the active involvement of representatives of indigenous peoples in the work of the WIPO Committee and in parallel consultations and workshops organized by WIPO, and calls for such involvement to be enhanced through *inter alia* the greater use in WIPO's work of position papers, case studies and information materials reflecting community experiences and perspectives and the funding of the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples in sessions of the WIPO Committee;

**and**

**Affirms** its willingness to contribute its technical expertise and experiences to the work of the WIPO Committee as well as to play a consultative role in assisting mechanisms that be established by the Member States of WIPO to select indigenous representatives who receive funding to participate in sessions of the WIPO Committee.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

We further endorse the Declaration and Programme of Implementation from the World Summit on Sustainable Development in those parts those documents refer to indigenous peoples, as well as the Kimberley Declaration adopted by the Indigenous Representatives in connection with the World Summit.

We also endorse the Millennium Development Goals for indigenous peoples and recognize in this context the importance of rendering the Millennium Development Goals appropriate for, and adopted to, indigenous peoples' realities.

Consequently, we recommend that the Permanent Forum;

**Encourages relevant UN system organizations, such as the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Bank Group and the UNDP, to assist the Permanent Forum in from an indigenous perspective follow up the recommendations made by the World Summit and in the Kimberley Declaration as well as the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals.**

Mr. Chairperson,

We will submit these recommendations to the Secretariat in writing.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.