

**Asia Indigenous Peoples Caucus Intervention to the 16th Session of the UN
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

Agenda Item 11 (b): Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples: Ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations

28 April 2017

Madam Chairperson,

In relation to ways to enhance the participation of indigenous at the United Nations in follow up to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Outcome Document, we would like to put forth the following **common minimum position** of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Caucus.

This is with reference to the elements for discussion included in the 16 February 2017 letter of the President of the General Assembly to indigenous peoples' representatives. The common position was agreed in the 2017 Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting on UN Mechanisms and Procedures related to Indigenous Peoples recently held in Chiang Mai.

1. On **venues of participation**, we call for the following provisions:
 - Indigenous representative institutions **“can attend all meetings and conferences of the UN General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies in accordance with the modalities established herein”** (*provided below*)
 - Further, we **“Urge ECOSOC to enhance the participation of indigenous representative institutions in all meetings of ECOSOC and its functional and regional commissions in accordance with the modalities established herein”** (*below*)
2. On **Participation Modalities**, we call for the following:
 - **Opportunity to speak and submit and distribute written statement**
 - **Separate seating**
 - **Additional forms can be on an ad-hoc basis (such as, but not limited to, co-sponsoring agenda and resolution)**
3. On **Selection mechanism**, we call to form
 - **A Committee comprised of members from amongst the indigenous nominated experts of the existing indigenous mechanisms of the UN (Permanent Forum, Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples) based on the regional representation from the 7 indigenous socio-cultural regions, with gender balance and inclusive framework.**

- **The Committee will have an annual meeting for at least 5 days a year**

4. On **Selection criteria**, we agree with the **provisions in the letter**.

5. Finally, on **Review** of the ways to enhance the participation, we call for the review to be held **every 3 years**.

We trust that this common minimum position of indigenous peoples in Asia provide for effective participation of indigenous peoples in the UN.

Thank you, Chair.

Delivered by: Pratima Gurung
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