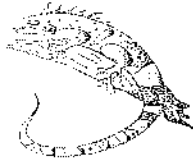


Memorandum of Understanding

23/05/05, #4 (C), 196 (C)



THE ALDET CENTRE - SAINT LUCIA

Box MA 020, Marchand P. O., Castries, SAINT LUCIA
Tel/Fax: + 1 758 452 5374 Email: aldetcentre@yahoo.com
aldetcentre@gmail.com www.aldetcentre.org
Blog: <http://theflyingfalcon.blogspot.com>

Secretariat of: BGC CAIPCD CAIPCM Abya Yala-Caribbean 500+ OASIPC AIPC IPTT
HPMIC SLCHR COHARDAR LAAR IMRRC SIDS 2005 Mauritius Initiative

**Fourth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
New York, 16-27 May 2005**

4(c)(i) Follow-up to previous special themes: "Indigenous children and youth" (2003) and "Indigenous women" (2004).

Collective Statement on behalf of the Caribbean Antilles Indigenous Peoples Caucus & the Diaspora.

Recommendations:

The following recommendations are based on the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Report on the second session (12-23 May 2003) Economic and Social Council Official Records, 2003; Supplement No. 23E/2003/43 E/C.19/2003/22.

Highlighted in blue on paragraphs 8, 10, 14, 15, and 21

1. Indigenous children and youth

Par. 8. The Forum notes that in order for it and the United Nations system to review the situation of indigenous children and youth, *there is a need for country-specific situation analyses. Given UNICEF's unique and long experience and expertise in that area, the Forum invites UNICEF to initiate such situation analyses on indigenous children by field offices in countries with indigenous communities. The Forum also invites UNICEF to transmit such situation analyses to the Forum.

*** The Caribbean Antilles Indigenous Peoples Caucus & the Diaspora request that the Forum call for a Caribbean Antilles specific situation analyses in 2006.**

Par. 9. The Forum is deeply concerned that particular problems and discrimination are faced by indigenous children and youth, including in the areas of education, health, culture, extreme poverty, mortality, incarceration, labour and other relevant areas. The Forum notes the need for new indicators to be developed by the United Nations that will specifically target those problems, and in that regard invites UNICEF to develop such new indicators and share them with other entities of the United Nations system, especially UNESCO.

Par. 10. The Forum welcomes the new initiatives undertaken by UNICEF with regard to indigenous children, in particular the ongoing development of a digest on the indigenous child, as well as a number of case studies aimed at understanding development programming to fulfil the rights of indigenous children. **The Forum requests UNICEF to make the digest and the results of those studies available to the Forum at its third session.

**** The Caribbean Antilles Indigenous Peoples Caucus & the Diaspora request that future undertakings of the Digest include indigenous children in the Caribbean Antilles.**

Par. 11. The Forum recommends that UNICEF, in cooperation with the ILO, UNESCO and UNHCR, report to the Forum at its fourth session on ways that the United Nations system can assist in capacity-building in that area.

**Collective Statement on behalf of the Caribbean Antilles
Indigenous Peoples Caucus & the Diaspora.**

Par. 13. The Forum urges UNICEF to develop its policy on and guidelines regarding indigenous peoples in time for the third session of the Forum.

Par. 14. The Forum recommends that UNICEF consider the ***appointment of a goodwill ambassador of indigenous children and youth to raise public awareness and that it urge all UNICEF ambassadors to pay attention to the specific problems of indigenous children and youth.

*****The Caribbean Antilles Indigenous Peoples Caucus & the Diaspora would appreciate knowing whether UNICEF has contemplated the appointment of the goodwill ambassador, and if not, what mechanism is in place for the submission of nominees.**

Par. 15. Aware of the massive exodus of indigenous youth to the alien environments of cities around the world and the discrimination, socio-economic hardships, weakened family networks and drug abuse, inter alia, affecting those youngsters and "street children", ****the Forum requests the World Bank, the ILO and UNICEF to conduct an in-depth comparative study of legal frameworks and social programmes addressing indigenous urban youth in selected countries. The study should assess key problems and best practices and should provide recommendations for the formulation of policies and strategies for future action.

******The Caribbean Antilles Indigenous Peoples Caucus & the Diaspora recommends that the Caribbean Antilles be one of the priority areas for the World Bank/ILO/UNICEF comparative study of legal frameworks and social programmes for indigenous urban youth.**

Par. 16. The Forum recommends that the United Nations system, in particular UNICEF and WHO, in collaboration with Governments and in consultation with indigenous peoples' organizations, and with the participation and input from the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, address issues related to the trafficking and sexual exploitation of indigenous girls, and urges States to create programmes of rehabilitation.

Par. 20. The Forum, taking into account that indigenous children, youth and women are more vulnerable and are often physically and psychologically mistreated, and that children represent the future of indigenous peoples, *****recommends that the Council support the declaration of an international day or an international year of the indigenous child, to be celebrated with awareness-raising activities to honour the cultural identity of indigenous peoples.

Par. 21. The Forum recommends that UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, the ILO, UNIFEM, UNDP, UNFPA and other United Nations bodies, in collaboration with Governments and in close coordination with indigenous peoples, *****prepare a Latin American conference of indigenous children and youth in 2004, taking into account the experience of the Sub-regional Conference of Indigenous Youth and Children, held in Quito in 2001.

*******Given the Forum recommendations in paragraph 20 and 21, the Caribbean Antilles Indigenous Peoples Caucus & the Diaspora proposes that as part of its activities planned for the Abya Yala-Caribbean 500+, that UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, the ILO, UNIFEM, UNDP, UNFPA and other United Nations bodies with partner Governments hold an International Indigenous Children and Youth Conference in the Caribbean Antilles in 2007.**



Dr. Albert DeTERVILLE, Executive Chairperson