

Intervention to the Eleventh Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2012
Global Indigenous Youth Caucus Statement - May 14, 2012
Agenda Item 7: Half-day discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The first high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, scheduled for 2014, is both a great achievement and an invaluable opportunity to effectuate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular Article 41 stating that "ways and means of ensuring participation of Indigenous Peoples on issues affecting them shall be established" as norms within international mechanisms. If this initiative is to be possible, a prepared, equal and representative participation of all regions, Indigenous Peoples and Nations, with specific inclusion of Indigenous youth, children and women, has to be secured. We acknowledge the significant meaning of establishing the Indigenous Global Coordinating Group and the inclusion of Indigenous youth representatives in such group. As the outcomes of the WCIP will greatly affect the rights and development of Indigenous youth, comprising 50% of our indigenous population, we urge the Forum, working closely with the two facilitators of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Indigenous Global Coordinating Group the following:

1. in partnership with the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, to assist in and facilitate the planning and organization of regional and international training programs, as well as to seek for and generate funds to properly prepare Indigenous youth for full and effective participation as representatives of their present and future Indigenous Peoples and Nations. A 5-day orientation session for Indigenous youth representatives shall be organized attached to the 2013 Global Indigenous Peoples Preparatory Meeting in Alta, Norway with funds provided to the Indigenous youth participants.
2. to coordinate with the Human Rights Council, Economic and Social Council and other UN agencies move to establish funds with the specific purpose of providing Indigenous youth with the necessary grants for full and dignified attendance at the Conference, given that Indigenous Peoples and Nations may not have the financial capability to enjoy full participation.
3. to ensure that in every regional and global preparatory meeting for the 2014 Conference, a session specifically addressing Indigenous youth and children is included in the agenda.

4. to include a half-day discussion on the World Conference in sessions before the Conference is held, naming the 12th and 13th session of the Forum in 2013 and 2014, noting that progress reports should be prepared and presented in such sessions to ensure the information on discussion and progress of the World Conference will be accessible.
5. to continuously press an agenda item on Indigenous youth to be included in Conference's program. The Global Indigenous Youth Caucus will propose a specific topic to such session addressing the pressing need of Indigenous youth and children after a consultation process. We consider the presence of a theme focused solely on the issues and perspectives of Indigenous youth essential to the success of the World Conference in terms of realizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Nations now and onward.
6. to advocate for visualizing documentation like pictures and videos be made compulsory in addition to written documents submitted to the World Conference as sources of material, with the reason that the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus sees the World Conference as an important platform from which we can raise the awareness of the issues and struggles of all Indigenous Peoples and Nations. Consequently we believe the presentation of issues and development through pictures and videos is a very publicly accessible form of documentation.
7. in partnership with doCip, to ensure adequate assistance in language differences, including translation and interpretation, is provided to Indigenous youth in the preparatory processes, at the Conference itself, and the follow-up work.
8. to promote the proposal for the Conference to be held in Indigenous land other than New York City or Geneva, given that the physical location of the Conference is important to the attendance rate, degree of participation and historical significance, since the travel and living expense in both New York and Geneva is high and to obtain US visa is often an obstacle for Indigenous participants.

To conclude, we reiterate the importance of engaging Indigenous youth at all stages of preparatory processes building up to the Conference at local, regional and international level, the Conference itself, and the actions and plans to follow up and implement the outcomes of the Conference. We call upon the Forum, the UN agencies and State Governments, as well as Indigenous organizations to support and provide needed resources, including funding possibilities, to guarantee the participation of Indigenous youth in this process.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.