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May 12, 2004

**Third Session on the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
UN, New York
10-21 May, 2004
Agenda Item 4: Culture**



Collective Statement of indigenous youth of the following organisations: Land is Life, The Saartjie Baartman Indigenous Medicine Institute, The International Indian Treaty Council, IAVE, Indigenous Dialogues Foundation, Women's League of Burma, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Kamakakuokalani Centre for Hawaiian Studies, Ka Lahui Hawai'i, and the Ilioulaokalani Coalition.

MY NAME IS Lovella Calica Hoffert. My Mother's family is from the Philippines. I AM SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE INDIGENOUS YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES, FROM THE COUNTRIES OF CANADA, SOUTH AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, TANZANIA, MALI, BURMA, USA, Asia and Hawai-i.

WE RESPECTFULLY PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION(S):

that Indigenous youth, especially women should be empowered to maintain and practise our traditional culture. Indigenous Peoples are the inheritors and proponents of the culture since time immemorial. Traditional Culture's only survival is through us.

we strongly recommend to the Permanent Forum to request UN agencies, such as UNESCO, UN Development Fund and other relevant agencies provide assistance to the creation of social and cultural programs and the creation of Indigenous Educational Institutions, that will focus on Indigenous languages, teaching true Indigenous history and empowering the disadvantaged youth that do not have access to this support.

we recommend that the Permanent Forum urge these same agencies to press for schools run by our own peoples and that both they and the institutions of nation-states (mainstream, public) teach cultural, political and spiritual histories from the perspectives of our peoples. In this request we are asking once again, that the true Indigenous Peoples histories be taught and that tools be created to teach histories to peoples who have been relocated.

We recommend that the UN agencies promulgate laws or inclusion of language in binding instruments at the international, regional and state levels recognize the rights of Indigenous Peoples to education and culture in their respective languages with appropriate content and structure, funding and reporting mechanisms to determine compliance, prior to the convening of the next forum.

we recommend that the Permanent Forum advise ECOSOC and the World Bank to promote our autonomous local economies and as such allow our peoples the right to preserve, protect and develop our natural resources and lands in a culturally appropriate manner. Resource extraction such as mining, oil and gas, logging and the creation of hydro dams are the root causes of displacement of our communities. Instead of bringing resources to our communities, these projects bring poverty, displacement, environmental destruction and health problems that destroy our peoples and our cultural integrity.

we recommend the creation and facilitation of Indigenous media promoting positive images of Indigenous Peoples to give accurate representation of our people and promote youth confidence in our culture. We urge the immediate adoption of the Draft Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples sections 7,8 and 9 which will protect and control media.

We request UNESCO and UNITAR to provide resources to aid the formulation of prime time media programmes.

we request all applicable agencies to contribute resources to our communities for the protection, teaching and promotion of our traditional indigenous cultures by our own people. These arts include, but are not limited to music, dance, weaving, carving, storytelling, clothing, and visual arts, and that these be protected as our own not to be expropriated and exploited for the financial gain of others.

We urge all UN Agencies to report on the status and progress of these recommendations before the Permanent Forum resumes in 2005.

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