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United Nations
Health
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Third Session
May 10-21, 2004



Agreeing Organizations:

Kamakakuolani Center for Hawaiian Studies, Ka Lahui Hawai'i, Land is Life, The Saartjie Baartman Indigenous Medicine Institute, The International Indian Treaty Council, International Association for Volunteer Efforts, Indigenous Dialogues Foundation, Women's League of Burma, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights, Taino Nation of Antilles and Hui Ho'oulu Incorporated.

The International Indigenous Youth Caucus represents Asia, Hawai'i, Canada, South Africa, Australia, Tanzania, Mali, Burma and the United States.

Recognizing that a clean environment and health of Indigenous People's are integrally intertwined we the IYC strongly recommend the following to UNICEF, the WHO, UNEP, UN Habitat and other UN agencies and bodies:

That Indigenous Peoples be insured participation in environmental decision making at national, regional, local and UN levels.

That Indigenous Peoples' Indigenous knowledge as healers and native medicines be respected and promoted in all nation states and UN bodies.

That the Special Rapporteur and UNEP to investigate the health effects of mineral/gas extraction, the use of chemical pesticides and pollutants and toxic waste dispersal and disposal on indigenous peoples within the appropriate areas as requested at the 2003 PFII. In addition, we request that those industries and activities that are causing mental and physical harm to Indigenous Peoples be forced to stop causing harm or be shut down.

That funds be allocated by UNICEF and WHO for community based NGO's to provide education, prevention and treatment of serious health problems affecting youth such as, but not limited to HIV/AIDS, drug and alcohol abuse, mental health, communicable and non-communicable diseases brought on by racist social institutions and programs and living in impoverished areas, high-stress and violent situations.

That the WHO to provide financial support for free healthcare to all IP regardless of civil, political, social, economic, national status, location, etc. including those peoples in remote and mountainous areas.

Request that UN agencies urge nation states to allocate more money for healthcare from it's national budget.

That UNICEF and the WHO to address health issues affecting young women and girls such as prostitution, rape, molestation, HIV/AIDS, STDs, unplanned pregnancies and forced genital mutilation. We urge UNICEF and the WHO to research these issues and create family planning education, contraceptives, and clinics for youth who are in need of medical attention.

Unicef

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In regards to the issues of prostitution, rape, molestation and genital mutilation, the IYIC strongly recommends that the WHO, UNIFEM provide a comprehensive update and concrete solutions to address these critical areas of concerns within indigenous communities

That UN bodies recognize the basic right of all peoples to the provision of adequate and nutritional foods and clean drinking water, and create programs to provide these needs.

That the WHO create and fund education programs on safe use and negative effects of chewing areca/betel nuts, tobacco smoking, drinking wine.

That the PF support and advise ECOSOC to promote and implement the recommendations contained in the "Background Paper: Indigenous Peoples and Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements" from the Secretariat of the PFII.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the IYIC calls upon the PFII to advise the appropriate UN bodies to immediately adopt the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, without any changes or amendments.