

Intervention – Statement by Brenda White Bull, *Hunkpapa Lakota*, from the Standing Rock Sioux Nation; delegate of the Indigenous Environmental Network

Haŋ Mitakuyapi.

My name is Brenda White Bull; my Lakota name is *Waunjsila Wiŋ*, Compassionate Woman. I am the great- great granddaughter of Sitting Bull, great granddaughter of Chief White Bull and Moving Robe Woman, all combatants of the Battle of Little Big Horn. I come from a long line of warriors we call *Zuye Wicasa* and *Akicita*. I served 20 years in the Marine Corps with honor, courage and commitment. My oath of enlistment does not expire, as I now defend the sacred waters and the homelands of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

We have never consulted and never gave our consent to the Dakota Access Pipeline, to come through the unceded territory of the Fort Laramie Treaties. We, the Great Sioux Nation, have never broken a treaty, but the US government has done so, by allowing this black snake, in which we call The Dakota Access Pipeline, to plow through our lands. They have desecrated the human remains of our ancestors and numerous sacred sites.

Standing Rock has brought the world together, to show that we are more powerful, than their militarized police forces and guns, because we were armed with prayer. The water has life. Her spirit about her, has called our 7th Generation to act on her defense. She is speaking to all of us, and she is tired. Mother Earth does not have a human voice. Therefore we are her voice. She gives us warning and that is why we are here.

We bring our actions, spirit and prayers, in hope that the UN puts a stop to the violence on the indigenous peoples. Many women have been violated. One had her arm shot to pieces, and another lost vision in one eye. This is the form of how the government treated, not only the women during the Standing Rock's defense of the water, but also, how it treated our Grandmother Earth. We defend Mni Wiconi, water of life; which is our first medicine.

After generations of trauma, our Spirit has been awakened. We have to act now. We cannot wait. Stop the violence.

Given that the special theme of this session of the UN Permanent Forum, is the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, if the States will not implement the

Declaration, we will do it ourselves.

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indigenous peoples. Many women have been violated. One day we will stop to breathe, and
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and she is here. Mother Earth does not have a woman voice. I believe we are her voice. She
thing about her, has called out. "Declaration to the UN on her defense. She is speaking to all of us."
united voices, voices and spirit, because we were united with prayer. The water has been
Standing Rock has brought the world together, to grow and we are more powerful than ever.
future of our ancestors and ancestors, sacred sites.
which we call the Dakota Access Pipeline to blow through our lands. They have destroyed our
never broken a treaty, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

- its link to the forms of violence to water.
- That the Future work of the Permanent Forum includes the theme on Water, to include
provided them.
- rights and indigenous rights standards before any assistance, including funding is
- Free, Prior and Informed Consent, and ensure that States are complying with human
- observance of Indigenous peoples rights under the Declaration, particularly the right of
- Bank, UNDP and UNEP establish effective and good faith mechanisms to ensure the
- That the United Nations, the donor States, and funding agencies, including the World
Forum report on this study annually.
- defenders of their lands and territories, their life-ways and cultures; that the Permanent
- territorial integrity of Mother Earth, the defenders of Sacred Water and sacred places,
- particularly those who defend their rights under the Declaration, the defenders of the
- violence of any form directed against Indigenous Peoples, communities or individuals,
- indigenous peoples be invited to join a study on intimidation, criminalization and
- That the Permanent Forum, initiate, and that the EMRIP and Rapporteur on the rights of
communities.
- That States cease and desist the militarization of indigenous lands, territories and