

**Intervention to the Eleventh Session of the
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2012
Global Indigenous Youth Caucus Statement - May 7, 2012
Agenda Item 3: Discussion on the special theme for the year: "The Doctrine of
Discovery: its enduring impact on indigenous peoples and the right to redress for
past conquests (articles 28 and 37 of the United Nations Declaration on the
Rights of Indigenous Peoples)"**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

My name is Krysta Williams from Moravian of the Thames First Nation of the Lenape people, on whose traditional territory we are gathered today. I am here on behalf of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, representing Indigenous Youth from around the world who are more than 50% of the Indigenous Peoples globally, to present our first statement to the 11th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The Global Indigenous Youth Caucus has decided by consensus to make a visible action to demand our right to full, equal and effective participation of all Indigenous Nations and Peoples registered for this year's Forum. It is dehumanising to be denied appropriate space after having credentialed so many Indigenous Peoples prior to the announcement about space limitations. Many have travelled here over great distances, from many indigenous lands, with the intention to participate in the Permanent Forum at a great expense of our time and monetary funds. The youth, on behalf of the Indigenous Nations we represent are taking this action, because the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is a space that was created and lobbied for by our Elders, to provide a place for Indigenous Peoples to be heard and have their struggles recognised. In order for the Permanent Forum to fulfil its mandate in hearing the voices of Indigenous Nations and Peoples, we require adequate space to accommodate all Indigenous participants for the duration of this year's session, as well as all future sessions. In solidarity, for dignified participation of Indigenous Peoples in the Session; we will initiate action so that we have a productive and successful dialogue for this year's theme of the Doctrine of Discovery and proceeding agenda items. As Indigenous youth, it is our responsibility to learn from our elders and respect our ancestors; it is also equally important that we as the inheritors to the lands and struggles, that we are listened to and heard. For this to happen it is vital that we, as Indigenous Peoples all stand together in solidarity, and take back the Permanent Forum in the name of its intended purpose.

The youth have chosen this peaceful action so that you, our relatives may join us in solidarity. For the future of Indigenous Nations and Peoples to have full, equal, and effective participation in the Permanent Forum, we must demand that our voices be heard today.

Thank you.