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Statement by the :

Asian Indigenous Women's Network, Asia-Pacific Indigenous Youth
Network and the Asian Caucus

The Asian Indigenous Women's Network and the Asia-Pacific Indigenous Youth Network with the endorsement of the Asia Caucus forward the following recommendations towards further realization and meaningful implementation of past recommendations on women, youth and children.

General Recommendation for Women and Youth

A. Support to capacity building initiatives and activities towards full and effective participation of women and youth especially in engaging governments to comply with their obligations under international human rights law;

- 1). This means intensive education and information activities on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other international human rights law and how to use these towards better implementation and its practical translation in the national level policies and programmes;
- 2). Strengthen the institutionalization of indigenous women and youth's participation all UN and intergovernmental processes and mechanisms ;
- 3). UN agencies, intergovernmental bodies, financial institutions, multilateral agencies and states to develop/establish strong mechanisms/tools, including allocation of funds, inclusive of youth and women in defining programmes towards the implementation of recommendations to the UNPF and as commitments to the 2nd Decade for the World's Indigenous People;
- 4). UN agencies, international organizations and states to support the 3rd Asian Indigenous Women's Conference to be held this year through the provision of their expertise, technical, logistical and moral support ;

In the implementation of the Program of Action for the 2nd Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples and the newly adapted UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, we call on

All the States to :

- Factor-in gender and ethnicity variables in national census and in the monitoring and impact assessment of programs/projects and international commitments e.g

the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millenium Development Goals;

- Ensure effective participation and representation for indigenous women and youth in all levels of engagement and decision making in state structures, plans and programmes through the establishment of funds in support of capacity building and to enable the participation of indigenous women and youth;
- Develop and strengthen national education policies/programmes appropriate for indigenous youth and women which are sensitive to their development needs;
- Facilitate the strengthening of the Asian Indigenous Women's Network (AIWN as well as the Asia-Pacific Indigenous Youth Network (APYIN) and their member organizations in its cultural exchange and skills sharing programmes through the provision of expertise, logistical, technical and moral support;
- As part of their international human rights obligations, states should nullify and/or amend existing policies on indigenous peoples or enact policies in its absence, consistent with the UNDRIP
- Human security for indigenous women means the adequacy of food, health, economic, social and cultural and physical integrity not guns and soldiers in the guise of anti-terrorism or roads encroaching into our forests and farmlands in the guise of development. This entails the security of our lands and territories and our access to our own resources to enable us to fulfill our roles of nurturing our children, families, communities and nature. Appropriate development policies therefore, based on the needs and aspirations of indigenous peoples, and with special attention to the perspectives of women and youth should be enacted and properly implemented in partnership with indigenous communities and organizations.

For the Inter-Agency Work Group on Gender Equality

- review experiences from the UNIFEM -led regional inter-agency group on indigenous women in Central America with a view to duplicating these in Asia, especially in relation to support for Asian states to ensure data disaggregation based on ethnicity and gender;
- support capacity building for indigenous women towards full and effective use of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in terms of awareness building and skills training especially in monitoring state compliance including the use of the communications, shadow report and Special Rapporteur mechanisms;
- for the Commission on the Status of Women to monitor and report on the implementation of its resolution 49/7 reflecting state parties' efforts in compliance.

To the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

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- strengthen the systematic inclusion of indigenous women by ensuring that the UN Declaration of Indigenous Peoples' Rights is taken on as a working framework in state implementation of the CEDAW, its monitoring and report;
- to undertake an in-depth study of the pervasive and escalating violence experienced by indigenous women arising from development aggression as a follow-up to the UN Secretary General's earlier study on all forms of violence against women towards identifying strategies for the full and meaningful implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women without prejudice to indigenous women and to inform the formulation of a general recommendation on the elaboration of VAW and women's rights;

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