

"Dear Madame Chair,

We the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC) advocate and fight with grassroots children and youth organizations who work for the revitalization of our culture, respect of human rights, the elimination of domination, colonization and discrimination. We deeply appreciate and recognize our elders for fighting for Indigenous Peoples' rights and human rights. We also appreciate the important work of this study and support the continuance of this study in all Indigenous regions. We would like to express our concerns regarding the outcomes of this study. Indigenous Youth continue to be marginalized and oppressed, and therefore need to be a priority for this forum, and the member states.

Indigenous Youth worldwide experience challenges in different aspects of our daily life. Indigenous Youth are immersed within a world that contaminates and expropriates our territories and violates our human rights, which we will be unrelenting in claiming.

As youth, our future is being threatened in multiple ways. For example, our right to free, prior, and informed consent is ignored with the exportation of illegal pesticides by US corporations into Yaqui communities of Rio Yaqui, Mexico. These pesticides contaminate our territories, water, and culture, which results in infant defects, multiple illnesses such as child cancers, and deaths. It is this type of discrimination and violation that threatens our nations and traditional territories on a global scale.

Furthermore, we have alarming rates of sexual, physical, and psychological violations that adversely affect our traditional livelihoods, which leads to disparity in our emotional and physical health and our high rates of suicide.

Indigenous Youth today are faced with challenges, which force them to analyze their place in the world. Many of these challenges are linked to an identity crisis that slowly eats away at the mental health of our people throughout generations. Many Indigenous Youth today do not have the skills to fully utilize our traditional knowledge and balance it with western knowledge. An unfortunate consequence of this is suicide; however, a stronger balance would solidify their place in the world. Breaking the silence is the first step in creating systemic solutions together. We urge the Permanent Forum and everyone here to recognize today that we need to put a face to the names and numbers, which we see, and know that action and support for interventions needs to happen. We have addressed the causes, which we think will have an impact on this problem but we need to intervene together before we continue to lose more of our Indigenous Youth.

As the GIYC, and Indigenous Peoples guided by our ancestors and elders, we have the following recommendations:

1. That the Permanent Forum meaningfully includes the GIYC as a contributor to future reports concerning Indigenous Youth and Children, as we are actively involved in all youth-related issues and would bring a unique and brighter view to the table.
2. We also recommend that United Nations Funds be used to create a special program destined for Indigenous Youth and Children. The program would bridge the gap of inequality between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples in terms of health and education.
3. Call for action from UN bodies to work with Member States to secure relevant education policies, to include plans and curricula in and about Indigenous languages and cultures created with full prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples and our histories shall be included in mainstream education as well in accordance to UNDRIP Articles 14 - 17.
4. We recommend that the Permanent Forum enacts an EGM scheduled next year regarding ethnocide and suicide worldwide that can provide disaggregated information.
5. If we want to have a sustainable future as Indigenous Peoples, we must address the issues keeping us from having a future. We strongly urge the UN Permanent Forum and other UN bodies to lobby for increased support for reducing suicide, especially among Indigenous Youth and Children, to be included in the post-2015 agenda.

These recommendations and calls for action are for UN bodies to work with Member States to create effective measures to put a stop to discriminations and racism against Indigenous Youth and

Children. They are to secure the continuity of traditional livelihoods as demanded by Indigenous Peoples, and to secure the possibility for Youth to continue Indigenous livelihoods."

Kind regards