

**North American Indigenous Peoples Caucus Statement
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Sixth Session
AGENDA ITEM 9. FUTURE WORK OF THE PERMANENT FORUM
INCLUDING EMERGING ISSUES**

May 23, 2007

Presented by: Celeste McKay, Native Women's Association of Canada

Good afternoon, Madame Chair. I would like to begin by thanking the Indigenous Peoples from this territory for welcoming us to meet here.

I am speaking on behalf of the many participants of the North American Region Preparatory Meeting, which took place on April 21 and 22, 2007, at the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center and Law School in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The meeting was a voluntary effort of Indigenous Peoples from North American who used their own limited resources to come together.

As noted by my North American colleagues, who have presented on previous items, we are referring to Document No. E/C.19/2007/CRP.7.

We recommend that the UNPFII consider that the theme for the 7th Session be "Climate Change and The Right and Responsibility to Maintain the Sacred Balance of Creation."

We reaffirm our commitment to continue working to build solidarity, share information, offer support and address issues of mutual concern with Indigenous Peoples from all regions at this and future sessions of the UNPFII. In this regard, we express our support for the "Declaration of Iximche", III Continental Summit of Indigenous Nations and Pueblos of Abya Yala, Iximche, Guatemala, March 30, 2007.

We welcome such efforts by Indigenous Peoples to work together for the survival, dignity and well-being of all of our Peoples. We would also like to thank the Permanent Forum members, States and Indigenous Peoples who have demonstrated a commitment to the full implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, based on our collective resolve to advance the human rights of Indigenous Peoples globally.