

RECOMMENDING THE UNPFII CONSIDER THE THEME FOR THE 7TH SESSION OF THE PFII TO BE ON THE TOPIC OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

Supported by: North American Indigenous Regional Caucus, Arctic Regional Caucus, Indigenous Women Caucus, Indigenous Environmental Network, International Indian Treaty Council, Committee for Promoting Taroka Nation Autonomy, Taiwan Indigenous Peoples Council, Association for the Development of Atayal Smangus na Qalang, Hunters School Association, Truku Youth Council, Taiwan Indigenous Peoples NGO Alliance, Traditional Circle of Indian Elders & Youth, Winnemem Wintu Tribe, La Red N Cana Indigena, World Council of Churches, Cordillera Peoples Alliance, Buffalo River Dene Nation, Maa Civil Society Forum, IUNIPRDBA, 7th Seven Generation Fund, American Indian Law Alliance, Western Shoshone Defense Project, Indigenous Peoples Council on Biocolonialism, Indigenous People of Saint Lucia Governing Council, and others.

Agenda Item 10. Draft agenda for the seventh session of the Permanent Forum.

1. A growing body of western scientific evidence now suggests what Indigenous peoples have expressed for a long time: life as we know it is in danger. We can no longer afford to ignore the consequences of this evidence. The discussions on climate change and global warming are intensifying. From the Arctic to the Pacific, to the global South, our communities and villages are reporting unpredictable weather patterns, drought conditions, floods, hurricanes and tornadoes. In the Arctic regions, the lands of our Indigenous brothers and sisters are literally melting before their eyes. Their hunters are experiencing increasing difficulty in predicting weather and environmental conditions that have lead to injury and death situations.

2. We support the recommendations of the North American Region Preparatory Meeting, held April 21-22, 2007, Agenda Item 9, Paragraph 49, recommending the UNPFII6 consider the theme for the 7th Session of the PFII to be on the topic of Climate Change.

3. This theme cross cuts and impacts all six of the mandated issue areas of the UNPFI and is a fundamental concern to the fulfilment of all eight of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). For Indigenous peoples to adequately address poverty eradication, hunger, health and to work towards ensuring environmental sustainability, we must be provided a collective opportunity within the PFII to address fully, all aspects of climate change, including its link to the topic of energy development, extractive industry, reforestation and afforestation, market-based solutions and in some regions, access to diminishing water resources.

4. This focus on Climate Change during the 6th Session of the UNPFII would allow participants to hear reports and recommendations from Indigenous peoples that have been participating within: the UNFCCC COP/MOP and its two permanent subsidiary bodies: the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the

Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI); the UN Commission on Sustainable Development; other UN and non-UN climate related national, regional and international meetings, including Indigenous meetings. The PFII theme on Climate Change would also allow expert presentations from both indigenous traditional knowledge persons and western climate scientists and provide an opportunity for Indigenous peoples to present our framework for addressing solutions to this climate crisis, including addressing mitigation and adaptation issues, based upon indigenous knowledge that has sustained us for millennia.