

14th Session of the United Nations of Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
UN Headquarters, New York, 20 May – 1 May 2015

Agenda Item-8: Future Work of PF (Method of Work)

22 April 2015

Joint Statement by Pallab Chakma

on behalf of

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Madam Chairperson, distinguished delegates, indigenous sisters and brothers,

We believe that review of methods of work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is now a most urgent issue and need to act regarding how the Permanent Forum could become a more effective mechanism within the UN system.

Since the inception of the Permanent Forum has taken hundreds of recommendations. However, most of these recommendations of the Forum either remain unimplemented or without follow up unfortunately. For instance, Permanent Forum in 2011 adopted recommendations for implementation of unimplemented provisions of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Accord of 1997. One such recommendation urged that the Government of Bangladesh to declare a timeline and outline modalities of implementation and persons and/or institutions responsible for implementation. However, either the government of Bangladesh or the concerned UN agencies are yet to take any effective measures regarding the implementation of this important recommendation.

We appreciate current reform initiatives of the Forum. However, in order to enhance its effectiveness and engagement of the indigenous peoples at the national level, we recommend setting up a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the Forum's recommendations.

We also recommend that, Forum prioritize to follow up the previous recommendations regarding how this could be implemented at the national level. We also recommend for a more effective and productive Inter Agency Support Group (IASG) in the future work of the Forum.

We recommend the Forum to consider future session on the treaties and agreements in line with the UNDRIP article 37 (treaties and agreements).

We also recommend for exploring a potential future session to include working meetings between indigenous peoples and States on a regional basis, in order to identify gaps and challenges that can be effectively addressed by the member States, the UN bodies and agencies, and other concerned actors, especially at the regional and country levels.

I thank you madam Chair.