

Statement to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

By the UN Indigenous Youth Caucus Group

23 May 2007

Mme chair,

We the Indigenous Youth Caucus Group have compiled a list of recommendations regarding the role of the UN Permanent Forum in assisting us in work and promote indigenous youth issues around the world. We, the youth, are essential to sustaining indigenous cultures, we therefore urge the UN Permanent Forum to take these recommendations as an urgent matter of concern, for the advancement of the struggles of our peoples.

Here are practical recommendations that could strengthen our common objectives of giving Indigenous Youths a voice ⁱⁿ ~~to~~ regaining indigenous peoples rights in their land.

The youth caucus requests:

Secretariat

- that the Forum encourage and request the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum, all United Nations agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, Indigenous organizations, member and non member states to work with Indigenous youth and provide adequate resources to support and facilitate the full and effective participation of the Indigenous Youth Caucus in their future work.

Secretariat

- that the Permanent Forum requests the Secretariat to work with the Indigenous Youth Caucus to prepare a report outlining how the Youth group can accomplish these goals and the means to achieve these goals. / This would include supporting the Indigenous Youth Caucus to convene ^{the} in a working group that is ^{comprise} comprised and led by indigenous youth with participation of UN agencies & other experts on Indigenous Youth issues. / This working group should meet on a regular basis. / This meeting would serve to create a structure and process for Indigenous youth involvement and a solid action plan that can be implemented in future permanent forums. / The youth delegation for this working group would be ^{comprise} comprised of youth represented by different regions representing all key Indigenous issues appointed by the youth caucus.

- that the Permanent Forum explore ways to provide funds for indigenous youth to enable full and effective participation in UN meetings, which is difficult given language barriers. Training courses in English and Spanish proficiencies to the youth from different regions would be very beneficial.
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- urge the Permanent Forum to consider that each permanent forum member agree to take on at least one ^{apren^{tis}} apprentice that would learn first hand [↑] experiences from distinguished members. By passing down your experiences we are not only keeping true to our traditions but also indigenous youth would be better equipped to further the fight of our ancestors and the many marginalized voices of indigenous youth and children across the globe.
- An important issue that effects [↖] youth indigenous and the structures they form part of in their countries, is the physical, economic, spiritual and political suppression of indigenous peoples and leaders around the world. Indigenous youth urges the UN permanent forum to assign a special ^{reporters} ~~rapporteurs~~ to address this issue, make a report to be discussed at the 7th session of the Permanent Forum specifically ~~as~~
 ~~well as to hold the governments accountable for their actions~~

Thank You

- ~~we~~, the indigenous youth caucus demand to hold the government accountable for their actions.

Thank you Mme Chairperson