

Intervention to the Fourth Session of the  
Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  
Global Indigenous Youth Caucus Statement - July 14, 2011  
Agenda Item 6: Proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council for its  
Consideration and Approval

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for giving us, the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, the opportunity to speak and present to you our proposals and recommendations.

As we have stated several times in the past few days, the participation of Indigenous youth and children is vital to any process of decision-making concerning Indigenous Peoples rights at all levels. The point of effective participation of Indigenous youth and children cannot be addressed enough.

The vision is that we, the indigenous youth of the world, will have a recognized and established voice in the decision-making process at all levels, and we are ready to contribute in any way we can.

We therefore propose the following recommendations:

1. We welcome the decision to hold a half-day panel on the role of languages and culture in the promotion and protection of the well-being and identity of indigenous peoples in the 18th session of the Human Rights Council (Human Rights Council Resolution 15/7). As Indigenous youth, we firmly urge effective participation of Indigenous youth representatives in this panel.
2. We propose a discussion on the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples to be included in the agenda of next EMRIP session in 2012. The Global Indigenous Youth Caucus stands firmly on the position that there shall be youth representatives for all relevant planning stages of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The Global Indigenous Youth Caucus is committed to coordinating the nomination and selection. It is critical that Indigenous youth have seats in preparatory committees, and there shall also be time allocated to the discussion on indigenous children and youth in the session of the World Conference.
3. We request the Experts, in your proposal to the Human Rights Council, to recommend OHCHR and UNITAR to organize, with cooperation with the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, the Secretariat of EMRIP and the Secretariat of UNPFII, a training for Indigenous youth on the three major international Indigenous rights mechanisms, namely the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Capacity-building initiatives with specific focus on Indigenous youth are essential to the enhancement of our active and effective participation in all issues concerning us.

4. We request that the Expert Mechanism to allocate time for follow-up discussion on the implementation of Indigenous Peoples right to participate in decision-making in the future session, and putting extra emphasise on the role of Indigenous children and youth in decision-making.
5. We propose a study to be conducted and discussed in the future session of the EMRIP on the difficulties and threats urban indigenous youth face, such as the lack of resource, poverty, loss of culture identity and public health problems, such as drug/alcohol abuse and HIV/AIDS.
6. We also strongly recommend the Experts to look into the issue of the high Indigenous youth suicide rate around the world. This study shall address the root causes of indigenous youth suicide, for example, inadequate access for Indigenous children and youth to healthcare, in particular, mental health services, communal, social, political and economic impact, government action to address the epidemic, and possible remedies.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.