

Madame Chair, as Indigenous Peoples we must walk our talk and truly be the moral voice in a world overrun by destruction, consumption, and greed. The answer is not continued use of fossil fuels. The answer is not nuclear power. The answer isn't large scale bio-fuels. The answer is not international carbon trading and a world of a carbon offset culture such as REDDs, where polluters and industrialized countries are allowed to pay for a conscience that they don't even have to begin with. While we allow these polluters to receive credit for setting up projects in the global south, it is business as usual with the expansion of oil, coal and other fossil fuel development within our homelands.

As Indigenous Peoples gathered here at the 7th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, we are in solidarity with many other Indigenous Peoples of every region of our Mother Earth in demanding a worldwide moratorium on new exploration, extraction, and processing of fossil fuels on Indigenous Peoples land and territories. However, within the Permanent Forum draft report on recommendations on climate, we do not see any position calling for this moratorium. For the well being of Mother Earth and future generations, we must demand the world move more aggressively than it is now, towards a rigorous plan towards a zero fossil-fuel emissions level by 2050. Many of the people here will NOT know if we were successful at reaching these reduction targets, but the children and youth that are here now, we be elders in 2050 and will witness whether each of you have done everything possible to protect our future generation.

We need more time to bring Indigenous Peoples together with the UN to discuss these issues. Climate change and the major cause of global warming – fossil fuel development - is a human rights issue. We recommend the Permanent Forum, through ECOSOC [Economic and Social Council] call on the UN General Assembly to convene an emergency world session to fully explore, with all branches of the UN, and relevant treaty bodies, in particular UNCERD, the multiple impacts of climate change and its link to fossil fuel development and the human rights of Indigenous Peoples, to include the topics of, but not limited to social, economic, cultural, environmental, health, food security, land and water rights, and treaty rights.

Thank you.