

Thank you, madam chair,
Distinguished PF members, delegates,

In resolution 24/10, the Human Rights Council requested the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to continue its study on access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, with a focus on restorative justice and indigenous juridical systems, particularly as they relate to achieving peace and reconciliation, including an examination of access to justice related to indigenous women, children and youth, and persons with disabilities. It examines barriers and remedies in access to justice for indigenous women, children and youth, and persons with disabilities. Finally, the study addresses restorative justice and its role in achieving peace and reconciliation.

The study benefits from contributions made at the United Nations Expert Seminar on Restorative Justice, Indigenous Juridical Systems and Access to Justice for Indigenous Women, Children and Youth and Persons with Disabilities, held on 17 and 18 February 2014, organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the University of Auckland Faculty of Law. In the seminar took part a number of experts, including member of the PFII Dr. Megan Davis.

Expert seminar participants mentioned several studies, which show that indigenous children and youth are disproportionately represented in criminal justice systems.

Another area in which persistent barriers remain is access to justice for indigenous children who have been victims of domestic violence or sexual abuse.

Expert mentioned, there is a considerable lack of data on indigenous children and youth in the justice system, which hinders the design and implementation of adequate policies to address their overrepresentation in the justice system.

At the Expert seminar participants referred to the advice of the the Committee on the Rights of the Child, for instance, to the need for disaggregated data collection pertaining to indigenous children in order to identify discrimination as well as to the need for positive measures to eliminate conditions that lead to discrimination, such as access to culturally appropriate juvenile justice services.

In the case of indigenous children, traditional restorative justice systems consistent with international law could be used to address cases involving children and youth.

Experts emphasized the need to implement special protection measures for indigenous children and youth, and culturally sensitive approaches. It is also crucial that the law enforcement and judicial workforce is trauma informed, and able to deal sensitively with issues including violence and sexual abuse.

Expert mechanism in its study stresses the children's right to be heard in judicial and administrative proceedings that affect them.

One more area that deserves particular attention is education. Quality education can play an enabling role for the exercise of human rights, benefitting both individual children and their communities.

So, it is crucial to adopt a holistic approach when addressing access to justice for indigenous children and youth.

The Study and advice will be presented in details at the 7th session of the EMRIP to be held in coming July. Expert Mechanism thanks the Permanent Forum for the discussion on indigenous youth and children and for the opportunity to highlight our efforts to promote and protect indigenous youth's and children's rights. We hope, that our common work on indigenous youth and children together with other UN indigenous mandates will continue in collaborative manner.

Allow me also to highlight probably the most significant gathering on youth issues, the World Conference on Youth, held in the capital of Sri Lanka – Colombo, last week. The specific theme of this conference was Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. More than 1500 participants got together to discuss issues, youth from around the world is facing, and to adopt s.c. Colombo declaration. As the Conference was acknowledged by the UN GA, Colombo declaration will be processed to the consideration of the GA. President of the GA HE Dr. John Ashe, special envoy of the UN Secretary General's **Envoy on Youth Ahmad Alhendawi** as well as the HE President of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa emphasized the need to include youth into decision making processes, including preparation of the Sustainable development goals and Post-2015 agenda.

Delegates of the conference took into account problems, which all vulnerable groups of youth, including indigenous youth, are facing.

More specifically, World conference participants encourage the provision of a budget to facilitate the creation of more and decent job opportunities to young people living with disabilities, displaced persons, youth of various ethnic backgrounds and indigenous communities, young migrant workers, other minority groups, and homeless young people.

Calling to ending systematic inequalities, participants Urge Member States to promote equal opportunities for all to eliminate all forms of discrimination against young people including discrimination based on race, colour, ethnicity, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, gender, young migrants, indigenous peoples, young people living in rural areas and refugees, on an equal basis with others.

Participants Urge Member States to develop programs and policies to eradicate the violence against the most marginalized groups of young people, including among others, indigenous youth.

In recognising the fact, that a majority of the world's youth live in rural settings in developing countries with lack of access to productive resources and rely on their own labor to earn a living, it is vital to ensure that decent rural employment creation, sustainable agriculture livelihoods and food production, youth participation, specifically marginalized youth (including indigenous peoples) are integrated into rural youth development policies, strategies, programmes and partnerships.

I'm confident, that Colombo declaration could be considered by all UN agencies as the voice of youth.