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Themba Smuts



Agenda Item 4: EDUCATION

Collective Statement of Indigenous Youth of the following organizations Land is Life, The Saartjie Baartman Indigenous Medicine Institute, The International Indian Treaty Council, IAVE, Indigenous Dialogues Foundation, Women's League of Burma, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and Mary Knoll

MY NAME IS Themba Smuts, I AM A MEMBER OF THE KHOI-SAN PEOPLE FROM THE CHAINOUQUA COMMUNITY IN SOUTH AFRICA. I AM SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE INDIGENOUS YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES, FROM THE COUNTRIES OF CANADA, SOUTH AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, TANZANIA, MALI, BURMA, USA & ASIA and MEXICO.

WE RESPECTFULLY PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION(S):

- That the Permanent Forum recommends UN agencies, support existing forms of Indigenous knowledge education systems and contribute to the creation of new forms of Indigenous Education.
- That UN agencies, such as UNESCO, UNICEF, UNEP are to provide, promote, and help build more education resources for the indigenous youth, in particular to the youth living in rural and remote areas.
- We implore UNESCO to pressure the states to include Indigenous perspectives in public schools which accurately reflect colonial history to promote cultural respect for our peoples.
- We recommend that the Permanent Forum conduct an analysis of the impact of the WTO general agreement on trade in services upon Indigenous Communities. We, as Indigenous Youth are concerned about the impact of the potential privatization of libraries and Indigenous Knowledge.
- We also recommend to the Permanent Forum, that all Indigenous Youth be supported in the strengthening of protecting Indigenous Knowledge systems, and Indigenous intellectual wealth, as a fundamental part of any Indigenous education system.
- That specific mechanisms of accountability be created regarding indigenous education by UN agencies and governments.

WE ASK THAT THESE RECOMMENDATIONS BE REPORTED TO THE FOURTH SESSIONS ON PROGRESS MADE AND RESOURCES ALLOTTED.