



**Statement of Indigenous Disabled People's Organizations attending
The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
With the support of the Disability Rights Fund
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Greetings to the members of the UN Permanent Forum and to our brothers and sisters in the audience. We are Indigenous Peoples with Disabilities and lead organizations from the Asia Pacific and Latin America. We have been brought together to this Forum by the Disability Rights Fund.

We applaud the effort to give visibility to the situation of violence faced by Indigenous women and girls. It is only by raising awareness to the specific needs of marginalized sectors of the community that we will be advancing the rights of all Indigenous Peoples. We want to highlight the fact that Indigenous women and girls with disability face additional challenges, such as:

- The lack of access to customary rights of properties
- They have high prevalence rates of sexual violence and since they have no or limited access to the traditional legal system, it is even more difficult for them to get justice.

Women, as well as men, with disabilities face multiple layers of discrimination, the lack of available opportunities, and a high level of poverty. These barriers limit our full participation in our communities.

To start with, our right to life is threatened since children born with a disability are at higher risk of infanticide. Even where services are available, Indigenous persons with disability are often excluded from access to education, employment, health and obtainment of legal status. We are especially affected by climate change, as we are the first to suffer the effects of displacement. We also have less access to natural resources and we are directly affected by the exposure to hazardous waste from the mining and agro-chemical disposal. We are vulnerable to natural disasters and armed conflict.

All these situations violate the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, especially Articles, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 31, and 33.

We ask for your support to include the voices and perspectives of Indigenous People with disabilities within this Forum and propose these recommendations:

- Consultation and participation of persons with disabilities in the regional and global caucuses to ensure that our voices are heard in the Forum's agenda in the years to come
- Drafting of a special report on the situation of Indigenous persons with disability
- Inclusion in the preparatory work for the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Rights to ensure that the situation of Indigenous persons with disability are discussed at that high level meeting



- Inclusion in the agenda of the UN System, including the Human Rights Council's Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People

We thank you for the opportunity to present to this Forum our concerns. We call your attention to our motto, NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US.

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