

**The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Third Session, New York, 10-21 May 2004
Agenda Item 4(f), Environment**

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Intervention by the International Indigenous Youth Caucus

Supported Organisations to this intervention: **Land is Life, The Saartjie Baartman Indigenous Medicine Institute, The International Indian Treaty Council, International Association for Volunteer Efforts, Indigenous Dialogues Foundation, Women's League of Burma, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, the Hawaii Institute for Human Rights, Taino Nation of Antilles, Kamakakuolani Center for Hawaiian Studies, Ka Lahui Hawaii and Hui Ho'olu Incorporated.**

As Indigenous Youth, we urge the Permanent Forum to follow up on the noted recommendation(s):

We are encouraged by UNEP's efforts to include indigenous youth voices, most notably in the four seats allocated for indigenous youth on the Tunza Youth Advisory Council at the Tunza International Youth Conference held in Dubna Russia 25th to 27th August 2003, and we urge UNEP to fill these vacancies allocated for indigenous youth by the next meeting of the Tunza Advisory Council in 2005.

We recommend that UN member states and relevant bodies recognize Indigenous People's sovereignty over their natural resources in accordance with Article 1 in common of the two 1966 Human Rights Covenants and other international instruments.

There can be no human health or sustainable development without environmental health. Indigenous peoples' right to sustain their lands, territories, air, forests and waters in a way they determine for themselves must be respected. We urge UNEP, all UN agencies and all nation states to promote and respect indigenous peoples rights to be responsible for and protect our environment.

We urge the UNEP, all UN agencies and nation states to call to account those responsible for polluting our lands and waters. Scientific methods to determine the nature, extent and cleaning up of toxic pollutions including nuclear waste and POPs must be prioritised, made available and applied by UNEP, UN agencies and nation states.

We recommend that the World Bank implement the recommendations of the Extractive Industries Review, as well as to guarantee the right, prior and to free informed consent to the upcoming Indigenous People's Policy. We ask for that multi-corporations to be held accountable to Indigenous Peoples for the damages including, but not limited to toxic spills, health effects, pollution, desecration of land, resources, animals and plants, etc. These companies must provide financial reparations for the damages that they have caused. They also must not work in an unsustainable manner that threatens the existence and future of indigenous resources, lands, plants, animals and human rights. We urge the World Bank and IMF to stop allowing corporations to be exempt from environmental protection laws

Water is very sacred to our Indigenous Communities, and we strongly urge that UNEP and other UN inter-agencies to stop the privatization of water.