

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on 12th Session
New York, 20th to 30th of 2013
Culture
Global Indigenous Youth Caucus Statement

We, as the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, recognize that Indigenous cultures consist of an interweavement of Indigenous traditional realities. This includes, but is not limited to, identity, traditions, language, livelihoods, ceremonies, traditional clothing, handicrafts, and inter-generational knowledge transfers. Through the recognition of these realities by UN states, UN systems, and the Permanent Forum, the UNDRIP can be further implemented. We recognize the 130 recommendations made on culture within the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Many of these recommendations are currently ongoing. We, as Indigenous youth, know that these recommendations should surpass the concept of ongoing, and place the following recommendations into action. The concept of ongoing recommendations is not acceptable when it comes to Indigenous issues.

1. Member states should complete the work in the area of adopting and implementing Indigenous education policies in relation to Indigenous cultures created significantly by Indigenous Peoples. This was reiterated during the 3rd session of the UNPFII, in Paragraph 35. This recommendation ensures that the commodification of Indigenous cultures, traditional-wear, and traditional livelihoods be honoured through educational institutions.

2. WIPO and UN States ensure that all forms of commodification and cultural misappropriation of Indigenous cultural expressions, such as clothing, art, knowledge, traditional livelihoods, and other forms of intellectual property, are unauthorized to the fullest capacity of WIPO and UN States. This was stated in Session 9, paragraph 24. Through this, Indigenous Peoples will continue to wear their traditional clothing and practice their traditional knowledge without cultural discrimination.

In Session 8, paragraph 20, it was stated that there should be stronger input in regards to Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories. As stated in Article 10 of UNDRIP, Indigenous Peoples can not be removed from their lands. During disaster reconstruction processes, and through economic development processes on traditional territories the government not only removes Indigenous Peoples from homelands without free, prior, informed consent, but also limits the opportunity for Indigenous Peoples to return to their homeland. And all these decisions are all based on scientific facts overlooking the traditional knowledge. Severing or harming the connection to land and traditional territories can harm the identity and development of Indigenous youth, while we are still looking for forming strong relationships to culture, land, and water.

3. Member states should legislate that Indigenous communities should consult and reach consent with Indigenous youth in regards to decision making processes, in ways to resist the relocation, invasion or limitation of Indigenous traditional territories or land use without Indigenous Peoples' free, prior, and informed consent.

4. That UN States should limit the use of traditional lands and the relocation of Indigenous peoples in the post-disaster reconstruction, as well as during economic development, and must obtain Indigenous Peoples' and free, prior and informed consent and take Indigenous Peoples' traditional process of decision-making into account in relation to land, forest and bodies of water. UN States should also ensure that Indigenous youth are highly involved in these processes to ensure that future generations can carry on the integral right of free, prior, and informed consent.

5. That the Permanent Forum urges the States to take steps to increase Indigenous youth's participation in governance and decision-making processes. All states need to respect the right to participation in decision making processes concerning Indigenous youth's own life. Representatives should be elected among and by the Indigenous communities themselves, not appointed by the states.

6. We reaffirm, and urge, that through the recommendation made during the 6th Session of the UNPFII, that all UN states, specialized agencies, academics, and Indigenous Peoples continue the implementation free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples, specifically with those projects that are leaving violent and unrepairable impacts on Indigenous lands and territories. We urge the states to be held accountable in regards to free, prior and informed consent. States should also implement a monitoring system for following through with rights to land and traditional livelihoods.

7. That UN states acknowledge and ensure that cultural centres within urban areas are made easily accessible to Indigenous youth. This unilaterally partners with Session 2, paragraph 15, and ensures that the recommendations for the World Bank, the ILO, and UNICEF are completed to their fullest extent with the inclusion of Indigenous youth.

8. That the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ensure that 2014's Expert Group Meeting has the theme of Traditional Livelihoods with an inter-generational balance from each region which would include the participation of an elder, adult, and youth from each of the seven sociocultural regions as stated in recommendation 80 of the EGM report on Indigenous Youth (E/C.19/2013/3)

We, as Indigenous youth, recognize the work of the Permanent Forum, Permanent Forum members, UN States, and agencies. Traditional livelihoods define who we are whether it is related to our linguistic sovereignty or cultural well being. We are Indigenous youth, and we

want to ensure that our culture is alive for our children, our grand children, and our future generations.

Thank you Mister Chair.