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**U.N.P.F. 2 AGENDA ITEM: HIGH LEVEL PANEL AND DIALOGUE
ON INDIGENOUS CHILDREN AND YOUTH
United Nations, New York - May 12, 2003**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, thanks to all responsible for this high level panel. I welcome this dialogue on Indigenous Children and Youth. This focus supports our First U.N.P.F. Session recommendations with positive action. Please allow me to make two comments and a recommendation.

Last year, I submitted and commended the Berlin agenda for action, Declaration on Physical Education and the Maskwachs Declaration on Sport. The World Summit on Physical Education reinforces the importance of Physical Education as a life long process. As the Agenda for Action for Government Ministers states: *"It is particularly important for every child [especially for every Indigenous child] as articulated in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. All children have a right to and I refer to four articles: (1) the highest level of health; (2) free and compulsory primary education for both cognitive and physical development; (3) rest and leisure and (4) [the right to] play."* [Emphasis added] I would again refer us to the calls for action and support for the two Declarations as they apply to Indigenous Children. Recall also the 1999 Geneva Conference of UNESCO document states: *"Physical Education and Sport are a human right for all children..."*

I would also like to place similar emphasis on the Justice issue of Indigenous Children and Youth. I am particularly encouraged by the Special Rapporteur, Dr. Stavenhagen's decision to focus on justice for his upcoming year of study. In Canada, on April 1st last month, a new federal law the *"Youth Criminal Justice Act"* came into force which we should monitor carefully. It may be a new opportunity for Indigenous communities, if resourced properly, to regain responsibilities for our children and youth.

Finally, the recommendation I propose Mr. Chairman, to build on our success from the first U.N.P.F. Session is to recommend to the Committee on the Rights of the Child to include as an agenda item, permanently from now on; Indigenous Children. The two Declarations I referred to and the Special Rapporteur's recommendations would have an important forum for follow up that would, I believe, improve the lives of our Indigenous children and youth. Thank you.

Mr. Wilton Littlechild, I.P.C.
U.N.P.F. Member

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INTERVENTION 2: Agenda Item 5: Methods of Work of the U.N.P.F. with the U.N. System

Regarding the term "*Indigenous Peoples*". On the acceptable use or non-acceptable use of the term - does it impact the collection of/disaggregation of data and information? If so, how and why?

W. Littlechild IPC

Mr. Wilton Littlechild, I.P.C.