

**UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
Twelfth Session**

**New York, 20<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

**Item 8: Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues of the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.**

**Global Indigenous Youth Caucus Statement**

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) ensures that the accountability of States and UN bodies is upheld to ensure that recommendations within the final report are fully implemented. As expressed in the *Permanent Forum's Final Report of the Seventh Session, Paragraph 101, calling for the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus' continued, effective participation in the Sessions of the Forum, as well as in other decision-making processes concerning the rights of Indigenous Peoples*, therefore the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC) make the following recommendations.

1. The Permanent Forum report to the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus on the implementation of recommendations made within the EGM final report (E/C.19/2013/3) to ensure that the stated recommendations are being fulfilled. We also feel that the EGM should be developed as an important tool for the Permanent Forum. Greater use could be made of its final report, if given enough time and focus in Permanent Forum sessions.
2. The Permanent Forum work more closely with doCip and the GIYC to ensure that reports and relevant documents prepared by the Permanent Forum be translated to official UN languages properly, and to also ensure that proper translation support is made for the GIYC in their meetings. Many reports prepared by the Permanent Forum were poorly translated, causing misunderstanding, and have the potential to be misinterpreted by Indigenous Youth and Children, the States and other stakeholders.
3. The Permanent Forum with the assistance of the Special Rapporteur, James Anaya, set up a half-day session on the topic of unrecognized Indigenous Peoples in its 13th Session. Many Indigenous Peoples who are currently unrecognized continue to suffer crimes against humanity and other human rights violations.
4. The Permanent Forum look into the issue of arrests and forced disappearances of Indigenous Peoples based on false accusations, whether they are recognized or unrecognized as Indigenous Peoples nationally or internationally.

5. The Permanent Forum reiterates the call, made at its fifth and 11th Session, to United Nations' agencies and funds to conduct and support regional and international human rights training programmes aimed at building the capacity and advocacy skills of Indigenous Youth. Furthermore, the Forum recommends the use of youth forums, social media and other popular cultural forms of communication to disseminate information and training material on the rights of Indigenous Youth and to facilitate consultation processes at the national and international levels. In addition, the Permanent Forum should collaborate with the UNHRC and other relevant UN bodies to work on the popularization of human rights education and advocacy in all States to ensure Indigenous and non-Indigenous Youth have a working understanding of human rights and its practical applications.

6. Indigenous Peoples, especially youth, may identify themselves as belonging to a plurality of cultures, sometimes across regions, and sometimes when not residing within the traditional homeland/s of those cultures. We recommend that regions and caucuses build capacity to support cross-caucus cooperation to ensure that no one is excluded, regardless of where they live and how they choose to identify.

7. The Permanent Forum as a State-based instrument, prioritizes approaches to issues and strategies as they fit within the state paradigm. These approaches are not necessarily conducive and reflective of the approaches and priorities of Indigenous Peoples. The GIYC recommends that mechanisms are developed to ensure that the implementation of recommendations from the Permanent Forum are egalitarian and support Indigenous Peoples' rights of self determination.

8. The GIYC recommends the establishment of a Treaty Monitoring Body, to oversee agreements established between Indigenous Peoples and States. We recommend that this body hold accountable all historic and ongoing violations of these treaties.

9. The GIYC recommends to the Permanent Forum that avenues be explored in partnership with the GIYC and all other caucuses to secure permanent or long term funding in order to attend all Indigenous related United Nations forums and or conferences.

10. We reaffirm the Permanent Forum report made in the 8th session paragraph 28 that an international expert workshop on the "Indigenous Peoples and health, with a special emphasis on sexual and reproductive health" be revisited and that a UN Inter-Agency group convene a meeting led by Indigenous community organizations, working at the intersection of health, education and culture as it relates to sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice. The workshop also needs to include issues of cultural and ancestral sexuality and gender identities, HIV and STI prevention and the promotion of healthy, consensual

relationships.

11. We reaffirm the necessity of the recommendation made in the 11<sup>th</sup> session, paragraph 11, calling for a “distinct focus on the introduction and inclusion of mental health services for young people, with particular efforts to address suicide among indigenous youth”. Despite being physically and culturally separated, Indigenous Peoples share the knowledge that their young people and future leaders are suffering from or are at a high risk of experiencing poor social and emotional well-being, often tragically resulting in suicide. There must be an urgent and coordinated response by the Permanent Forum to address the high rates of suicide amongst Indigenous youth, in order to reduce the associated costs and repercussions that this has on the future of all Indigenous Peoples globally.

12. The GYC recommends that the Permanent Forum explore more time efficient processes for the presentation of reports and studies.