

Mr. Chair, on behalf of Youth Association of Finno-Ugric Peoples, I would like to make five recommendations to the Permanent Forum (PF).

*the*  
*offer full support on the future work reports*

1. We support the global indigenous youth caucus in their request to include youth representatives into the preparation of the half-day discussion on indigenous youth to be held in 2013. *as well as other*
2. We suggest that the PF more prominently include the topic of Information and communication technologies (ICTs) in its future activities and discussions. ICTs are already today performing important and growing roles in daily lives of many indigenous peoples and communities

*hereafter:*

- Provide access to critical information and alleviate the "digital divide"

*ICTs*

Allow indigenous peoples to communicate/collaborate within and between each other – e.g., highly relevant for Finno-Ugric peoples that live thousands of kilometers apart

*ICTs*

Enable to better preserve and share intangible cultural heritage, incl through digitization and online publishing (e.g., online dictionaries, works of literature, music, etc.).

*ICTs*

Provide a platform for evolution and modernization of indigenous languages (esp. written, but also spoken) and cultures. As the Finno-Ugric examples (from Mordovia, Udmurtia, etc.) clearly demonstrate, this is where youth can take the lead. We consider such linguistic and cultural evolution *innovation* as highly important in terms of ensuring sustainability *vibrancy* of indigenous cultures; ICTs can serve as enablers for such evolution. Indigenous can also mean innovative. *of message*

However, usage of ICTs among indigenous peoples is not without risks or challenges. E.g., overusage of ICTs can weaken traditional human relationships in the "real world". *also* ICTs may be associated with additional costs that the indigenous community on their own cannot cover, thus relying on the support of the state or private sector. Based on all of the above, we believe that the topic of ICTs in the context of indigenous peoples merits half-day discussion *at* the PF of 2013. Specifically, we would like to raise the topic of the rights of indigenous peoples to the usage of ICTs: *access are is that such a right is not, can be* The half-day discussion could include, among else case studies of best/good practices of ICT usage from around the world, expert statements and/or panel. There may also be a strong rationale for conducting a comprehensive study on the role and potential of ICTs for indigenous peoples prior to such discussion. Youth Association of Finno-Ugric Peoples is ready to actively participate in this process, including by sharing Finno-Ugric experience and expertise in this field. *and will*

3. Currently PF website available in English, French and Spanish. We also urge the Secretariat of the PF to ensure translation of PF materials into the other three official languages of the UN, i.e., Arabic, Chinese and Russian. This will improve access to information about the PF in many parts of the world, including among Finno-Ugric peoples many of whom live in the Russian Federation.
4. We encourage member states, UN agencies and rapporteurs to publish official reports and statements on the PF website in advance, preferably one week before presenting. This will improve the quality of discussions and alternative reports presented at the Forum.
5. We suggest PF to provide webcasts of PF 2013 official programme (and preferably side events) so that PF becomes accessible in real time to all the world's indigenous communities with internet connections. This would be a significant improvement, given the logistical, financial and sometimes regulatory (including visa-related) hurdles that prevent many indigenous activists from attending the PF here in New York. With such a relatively simple *and low-tech* and low-cost move, the PF could more than double the number of "effective" participants, thus multiplying and amplifying its global impact. Thank you!

*that is double of of another half participants*