

**ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON
INDIGENOUS ISSUES, MAY 7 – MAY 18, 2012, NEW YORK CITY**

STATEMENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CAUCUS

AGENDA ITEM 3: Report on the expert group meeting: combating violence against indigenous women and girls, article 22 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Study on the extent of violence against indigenous women and girls in terms of article 22 (2) of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Thank you Mr. Chair, and we wish to congratulate you on your election as Chair for the Eleventh Session of the UNPFII. We look forward to working under your capable leadership.

The members of the North American Indigenous Peoples' Caucus extend our warm greetings to the members of the UNPFII, Member States, UN Agencies, and our Indigenous brothers and sisters from throughout the world.

We wish to inform the Permanent Forum that the North American Indigenous Peoples' Caucus held a preparatory meeting for the Eleventh Session of the UNPFII. The preparatory meeting took place on March 10 – 11, 2012, in the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee in Niagara Falls, Ontario. The meeting was hosted by the Chiefs of Ontario.

The NAIPC meeting was attended by 75 delegates representing Indigenous Nations and Peoples, Indigenous Peoples' organizations, and communities from throughout Great Turtle Island.

Delegates adopted a report of our deliberations by consensus, and this report has been submitted to the UNPFII-11, as document E/C.19/2012/CRP. 1

Delegates spoke of a new concept that has been discussed in the UN, that is, 'Environmental Violence' against Indigenous women. For example, elevated cancer rates in young girls due to use of toxins that are well known to be harmful, yet are purposely used to make profit.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The NAIPC recommends that all forms of violence be considered and discussed and specific strategies be developed to effectively address all the forms of dominating violence against Indigenous women. Priority must be given to the issue of direct violence against women.
2. Given the hundreds of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada, most of them unresolved and unsolved the NAIPC recommends a recognition of the explicit connection between sexism, patriarchy, paternalism, and so called domination of men over women and the Doctrine of Discovery, as well as the lack of ability to hold non-indigenous people accountable for their violence against Indigenous women.
3. The NAIPC recommends that the Doctrine of Discovery and its paternalistic framework of dominance be examined to understand the root causes and current practices that promote violence against Indigenous women so as to become more effective at ending violent

domination against Indigenous women.

4. Based on discussion and feedback from Indigenous women at the recent Assembly of First Nations Justice Forum that included a focused discussion on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls, the NAIPC recommends the UNPFII urge States to ensure that Indigenous women and girls need to be actively and increasingly involved in all political, economic, and social processes so as to honour and restore the traditional general roles and responsibilities of women in Indigenous nations.
5. NAIPC recommends the government of Canada establish a national inquiry on the disappearance and murder of hundreds of Indigenous women and girls in Canada, which shall include equal participation and funding for Indigenous peoples' representatives, and that the government of Canada establish a Royal Commission, with equal Indigenous participation, on incidences of violence against Indigenous women and girls.
6. NAIPC recommends the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women proceed with an inquiry under Article 8 of the Optional Protocol regarding Canada's conduct and the situation of violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada.
7. The youth suicide rate in Canada is very high, especially in northern communities. There is a direct connection between this and the requirement for indigenous children to attend schools away from their territories due to lack of funding. NAIPC recommends that adequate funding be provided to build schools in First Nations communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to give these remarks.