

United Nations Permanent Forum on indigenous Issues

Fourteenth Session

New York, April 20<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015

**Agenda Items 8: Future work of the Permanent forum (Discussion on indigenous human development/human rights indicators)**

Madam Chair, members of the Permanent Forum, Indigenous Leaders, Excellency's, ladies and gentlemen,

I speak today on behalf of the Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network (IPWDGN) and the Global Disability Caucus – a network representing indigenous persons with disabilities from all seven geopolitical regions of the indigenous peoples of the world.

Our journey to where we are now today has been lonely journeys in the various indigenous communities we come from. However, the experiences we are faced with are similar and the same. We face stigma and discrimination by the very indigenous communities and our indigenous people that we strive to be a part of. Although our cultural safety net systems that has purported to be our stronghold in our various indigenous communities, have often relegated us to the periphery of our societies often with good intentions. We have not been empowered, as often our voices, our dreams and aspirations are echoed by someone else. Resonating throughout this conferences are the words of the UN Secretary General, HE Ban Ki Moon, "LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND" and the all too familiar phrases, PLANNING FOR ALL, AND INCLUDING ALL, INCLUSIVENESS. In reality what does this mean? As indigenous persons with disabilities, when reality strikes, say in terms of natural disasters, health and education interventions, our aspirations and dreams are still relegated to the last place. We are often not counted and given the after thoughts when again the words and phrases start to ring clear in our ears and minds.

But we are here and we would like to join hands with you so that we can work together as one and we promise we can build resilient communities. We are given the challenge on how we can contribute to the future work of the permanent forum in the area of human development and human rights indicators. I present to you these recommendations in the form of the principles of inclusive development which we as indigenous persons with disability recognize that if integrated in the future work of the Permanent Forum of Indigenous Issues will lift the profiles of indigenous persons with disabilities in the seven geo-political regions of the indigenous world.

*Principles*

1. **Awareness** of disability and its implications at all levels of our communities and society .
2. **Participation** and active involvement of people with disabilities.
3. **Comprehensive accessibility** through addressing physical, communication, policy and attitudinal barriers.
4. **Twin track** identifying disability specific and disability inclusive actions

*Approaches*  
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Madam Chair, the Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network and the Global Disability Caucus – a network representing indigenous persons with disabilities from all seven geopolitical regions of the

indigenous peoples of the world are committed to work with you if you can join hands with us as well to build a better community that we can all live harmoniously in. At this juncture we wish to acknowledge our sponsor the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund and our partner the International Disability Alliance for making our participation possible here at this 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Thank you Madam Chair for giving us this opportunity.

THANK YOU.

**Ms Ipul Powaseu**

Co-Chairperson PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons

Member of the IPWDGN