

**Recommendations of  
The International Conference on the  
UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples**



**Preamble**

We the participants of the International Conference on the United Nations Permanent Forum, 28 January – 31 January 2000, Chiang Mai, Thailand, convened by the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), welcoming the participation of the representatives of the Royal Thai Government, the Government of Fiji, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, call upon the *United Nations to establish a Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples* to promote peace and prosperity in accordance with the *Charter of the United Nations*, enshrining the rights for all indigenous people, and their cultures, based upon the principle of equal rights for all:

- Bearing in mind the *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action* as adopted by the *World Conference on Human Rights (A/CONF.157/23)*;
- Recalling the Secretary General's Report on the Review of Existing Mechanisms, Procedures and program within the United Nations concerning Indigenous Peoples (A/51/493);
- Further recalling the reports from the First and Second Workshops on a Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations system;
- Supporting the declarations coming from the International Indigenous Conferences regarding the establishment of a Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations System; and in particular the "First Asian Indigenous Peoples Workshop on A Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations".
- Recognizing the progress achieved in the First Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group, on the establishment of a Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples.
- Welcoming and supporting the working paper entitled "*Proposals for the Possible Establishment of a Permanent Forum for Indigenous People*" prepared by Mr. Richard van Rijssen, Chairman/Rapporteur of the first meeting of the open-ended inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group On The Establishment Of a Permanent Forum For Indigenous People, and submitted for discussion to the *Second Session of the Ad Hoc Working Group*, "*Proposals for the Possible Establishment of a Permanent Forum for Indigenous People*".
- Hoping that the Second Session can finalize its work in accordance with the interests and aspirations expressed by indigenous peoples, and that the report from that 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Human Rights will forward the proposal for the establishment of a Permanent Forum to the United Nations Economical and Social Council for further consideration.

**We, the assembled indigenous and other participants in Chiang Mai, have agreed on the following recommendations which we hope will contribute, in a spirit of cooperation and tolerance, to the final establishment of a *Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples*.**

### **1. Name**

The name shall be the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples

### **2. Mandate**

We endorse the recommendations of the Chairman of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations to have the mandate of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples modeled on Article 62 and 63 of the Charter of the United Nations. The Permanent Forum should have, inter alia, the following mandates.

- a) To promote peace and prosperity in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, by developing friendly relations among nations and peoples based on respect for the principle of equal rights.
- b) To serve as the central forum for the discussion of indigenous peoples' issues and formulate policy recommendations on those issues addressed to Member States and to the United Nations.
- c) To make or initiate studies and reports and make recommendations to ECO/SOC on political, economic, civil, social, cultural, educational, environmental, developmental and other matters related to indigenous peoples.
- d) To make recommendations to ECOSOC on urgent problems requiring immediate attention with regard to indigenous peoples and to develop proposals to give effect to such recommendations.
- e) To review and coordinate all relevant United Nations plans and programs in the field of indigenous peoples
- f) To provide technical and advisory services for Members of the United Nations, and on request, for the specified agencies.
- g) To consult with Indigenous Peoples' organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned with matters falling within its competence.
- h) To rationalize, adapt, strengthen and streamline the activities of the UN system in the field of indigenous peoples
- i) To call upon and establish ad-hoc working groups in specialized fields or individual experts if and when necessary
- j) To call international conferences and prepare reports for submission to the ECOSOC and/or General Assembly on matters falling within its competence

- k) To give advice on all questions within the mandate of the ECOSOC that have a direct or indirect relationship with indigenous issues

### **3. Placement**

In accordance with the above mandate, the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples shall be a permanent subsidiary body reporting directly to ECOSOC.

### **4. Membership**

- a) The Permanent Forum should consist of an equal number of Government and indigenous peoples' representatives, with equitable cultural and geographic distribution and gender balance.
- b) The Permanent Forum should consist of 26 or more Members, and indigenous peoples representatives can be drawn from the current five United Nations Regions comprising three members each from Asia, Africa, Western Europe, and Latin America, and one from Eastern Europe.

### **5. Terms of membership**

Members should be elected/selected for one term of four years. Members may be eligible for reelection/selection once in succession. In the initial term, half of the members are elected/selected for four years and half are for two years. Following the initial term, half of the members retire every two years.

### **6. Rules of procedure**

The Permanent Forum shall develop its own rules of procedure.

### **7. Participation**

Participation at the Session of the Permanent Forum should be open to all indigenous peoples, governments, NGOs, and UN agencies.

### **8. Technical Issues**

#### **8.1 Finance**

The Permanent Forum should be adequately funded by the regular Budget of the United Nations. A United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Permanent Forum should be established to assist the programs and operations of the Permanent Forum.

#### **8.2 Secretariat**

The Permanent Forum should have its own permanent Secretariat comprised mainly of indigenous staff.

#### **8.3 Location**

The Permanent Forum should be located where appropriate.

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