

PERMANENT FORUM FOR INDIGENOUS ISSUES  
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COLLECTIVE STATEMENT FROM THE INDIGENOUS OF KENYA A  
BY MAASAI WOMEN FROM EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT (MAWEED) 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2004

Presenter: Margaret Koileken

The Indigenous women fraternity in Kenya appreciate that UNPFII has taken a deliberate task to address issues that affect Indigenous women in its third session. It is noteworthy to take cognizance of the fact that Indigenous women in Kenya have been deprived the opportunity to grow into productive citizens due to the government non-compliance in addressing the political and socio-economic rights of Indigenous women.

Among the problems that Indigenous women face is lack of representation in both central and local organs of governance. The Indigenous woman is denied the opportunity to participate in public policy affairs, thus incapacitating Indigenous women to assert their rights on issues that directly affect us.

We recommend the following to the PFII to request the UN that:

1. Country UNIFEM <sup>Country</sup> offices should have policies in place ready to support IP's women. The programmes should be managed by Indigenous women.
2. Domesticated CEDAW and enforce it further to translate to local language.
3. All country UN bodies, organizations agencies should move to accurately establish database for IP's in their country offices.
4. PFII to follow up with UN funding bodies to play and avail Indigenous people women credit schemes.

5. That the PFII ensures that Indigenous women within their states formally recognize Indigenous women.
6. Urge PFII to prevail, pressurize, lobby states with IP's in their states adopt the UN Draft Declaration on the rights of IP.
7. The PFII request the UN to support capacity building and civic education of Indigenous People's women (including training materials curriculum development).
8. Establishment of institutional framework for IP's women with nation states with IP's communities.
9. UNIFEM and other relevant UN bodies exert pressure on national states to avert violence against IP women that continues to register profound rights violence against IP women and impede sustainable development.
10. UNFPA and UNDP need more IP's <sup>work</sup> projects portfolio.

Thank you.