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**Collective Intervention of the
International Indigenous Women Caucus
3rd Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**



Agenda Item: Human Rights

Intervention presented by Peggy Bird

We acknowledge the Haudenosaunee and thank them for permitting us to be in their territory.

We come to you as indigenous women of the land, as mothers, grandmothers, sisters, daughters, as women of Mother Earth and

We respectfully propose the following Recommendations:

1. We call upon the Permanent Forum to reiterate the requests made during the First and Second Sessions of the Forum to nation states to respect the rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination by adopting the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
2. We call upon the Permanent Forum to support a Second Decade on Indigenous Peoples.
3. We ask the Permanent Forum to recommend that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights organize activities with indigenous peoples in the Pacific, Latin America, North America and the Arctic regions with a view towards:
 - a) providing international and regional human rights training for indigenous peoples;
 - b) encouraging dialogue between States, indigenous peoples and others on the promotion and protection of the human rights of indigenous peoples; and
 - c) inviting inter-agency consultation with States and indigenous peoples at the national and subregional levels and to report to the Forum at its fourth session.
4. We ask the Permanent Forum to urge the States to establish a monitoring mechanism to track the status of the implementation of recommendations made under the mandated area of "human rights" in all Sessions of the Permanent Forum.

5. We ask the Permanent Forum to recommend that the Secretary General provide necessary financial assistance to indigenous women to participate in the sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the Intersessional working group on the Draft Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.

6. We ask the Permanent Forum to recommend that state laws be gender neutral and that state laws be reviewed to make changes so that they are gender neutral.

7. We ask the Permanent Forum to recommend that the Vatican rescind the Papal Bulls issued in the late 13th century by Pope Innocent IV.

Justifications for these recommendations are:

1. Ten years have passed and only two of the provisions of the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples have been adopted. It is past time for the states to recognize the rights of indigenous peoples and immediate action should be taken to rectify this. Human rights are the natural fundamental rights that are necessary for basic needs of life. The denial of the rights of indigenous peoples, in particular the rights of indigenous women, to physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual survival affects our health and wellbeing as indigenous women, our children and our communities.

2. Human rights violations committed during these outrageous armed conflicts around the world need to be addressed immediately. The United Nations must take action to live up to the reasons it was originally established, to promote world peace and to hold those states who continue to wage these unnecessary acts of violence that directly impact the lives of indigenous women accountable for their actions. The human rights of indigenous women are outrageously violated on a continuing basis while states ignore established principles of international law, for example, colonialist policies and practices severely impact the lives of indigenous women through the rape and murder of indigenous women. It is now time to hold the states accountable for those violations.

3. The Permanent Forum recommended during the First and Second Sessions that the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights organize activities with indigenous peoples in Africa and Asia. It is now appropriate that these activities be extended to indigenous peoples in other regions.

4. A monitoring mechanism is severely warranted as there are hundreds of recommendations being issued through the Permanent Forum with no way to track their status and implementation.
5. It is very difficult for indigenous women to participate in the international processes because of financial hardship and the reality of the world that most financial resources are still targeted toward men and men have more access to these resources because of colonialistic attitudes and policies.
6. Most state laws refer to "he" or "his" or "him" which means that indigenous women are invisible in the state legal systems. This perpetuates patriarchal approaches in communities that are matrilineal in nature and is a result of the violation of the human rights of indigenous women through colonialistic attitudes reflected in state laws.
7. The Papal Bulls begun in the 13th century laid the foundation for the "Doctrine of Discovery" and the "Right of Conquest" which have permitted the colonization practices of states in violation of the human rights of indigenous peoples.

We appreciate your support in ensuring the human rights of indigenous peoples, in particular the human rights of indigenous women, as indigenous women guarantee the balanced and just development of peace in the world. Promoting the human rights and inherent sovereignty of indigenous women throughout the world is key toward ensuring the human rights of all indigenous peoples.

Thank you.