

**The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
Third Session, New York 10-21 May 2004  
Agenda Item 5, Future Work of the Permanent Forum**

**Collective Statement** on behalf of the International Youth delegates attending the forum from the following countries: Canada, South Africa, United States, Asia, and Pacific Region, Hawai'i, Philippians, and Tanzania.

Oral Statement presented by Elaine Alexie, Youth Representative, Gwich'in Nation, Land is Life Organization

On behalf of the Indigenous Youth Caucus we have the following recommendations to the Permanent Forum:

1. We strongly urge that a Permanent Forum Seat be exclusively created for a Youth Member from the International Indigenous Community, to actively participate, engage, and to help represent the **YOUTH** as a collective voice within the Permanent Forum. We as youth are praised to be important to the future by our leaders, we strongly feel that we need to be at that level of the forum to be able to speak, to be heard and to be listened to.
2. We urge that more **YOUTH** from all delegations can continue to attend the Permanent Forum and that the Permanent Forum can help accommodate more resources for youth to participate. A youth liaison for caucus and regions should be established, Pre-session workshops or information that can be distributed can effectively ensure that youth can understand the Permanent Forum process more. It is essential that more youth need to be engaged within future Permanent Forum sessions.
3. We strongly recommend that the Permanent Forum focus the Fourth Session to be on "Self-Determination", for it is an underlying theme to all Indigenous People's issues.
4. We ask the Permanent Forum and the UN to actively endorse the request that a second decade be issued for Indigenous Peoples. We praise the work that has been done to reach where the Draft Declaration on Indigenous Peoples is at now; however, we suggest that the Permanent Forum request to the appropriate UN bodies to immediately adopt the Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples by the end of the decade. With this, we request that work begins on a convention on the rights of Indigenous People's, enshrining the right to self determination under International legal standards.
5. The Permanent Forum to allow NGO groups to attend the Permanent Forum and to recognize the rights of other Indigenous People's under countries that are not members to the United Nations.
6. We recommend that we as Indigenous Peoples be treated with mutual respect and understanding by personnel and staff at all UN offices in order for Indigenous People's and Youth to conduct our business. As the Secretary-General made and reiterated in the 3rd session, "You have a home here".