28 May 2009

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Agenda Item 8. Draft Agenda for the Ninth Session of the Permanent Forum

Thank you, Madame Chairperson, for this opportunity to speak on this serious issue. This is a joint statement from a number of North American Indigenous Peoples and Nations.

The results of uranium exploration, extraction and development, and the processing and use of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons manufacturing have grave consequences not only on human beings but on the entire environment for thousands of years in the future. We cannot leave this legacy to future generations. Thus we make the following recommendations.

The Forum appoint a member of the Forum to conduct a study, without financial implications, on the impacts on Indigenous Peoples caused by all aspects of the nuclear industry including: uranium exploration and mining; nuclear development, processing and testing; nuclear power plants; the transportation of nuclear materials; nuclear waste; implications of Indigenous Peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources; free, prior, and informed consent; treaty obligations; and impacts to health. The results of such a study should be presented at the next most immediate Session of the Permanent Forum.

Furthermore, the Impacts on Indigenous Peoples by the Nuclear Industry should be an agenda item at the Ninth Session. This would allow Indigenous Peoples to present first-hand information on their dealings with the nuclear industry especially those in concert with governments, an industry which greatly contributes to climate change, and whose devastation is forever in terms of life as we know it.

Thank you very much for considering our recommendations.

Tetuwan Oyate (Teton Sioux Nation) Teton Sioux Nation Treaty Council Ochapowace Nation Aboriginal Commission on Human Rights - Canada Indigenous Women's Network Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations