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United Nation Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Seventh Session
New York, April 21 to May 2, 2008.

Joint Statement Submitted by the Indigenous Peoples Caucus of the Americas

Item 9: Future work of the Permanent Forum, including emerging issues

Presented by Willie Littlechild

Respectful Greetings Madame Chair and all delegations.

Thank you for the opportunity to present three matters (briefly) under Item 9. First, on behalf of the World Indigenous Nations (WIN) Sports and Sports Manitoba I would like to invite the Permanent Forum to join us in a celebration of life through sports, traditional games and culture. The WIN Games have now been awarded to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada and are being proposed for August 2012. While we are still working on financial details we will begin a series of Sports Congresses this November with the Manito Ahbee Festival, Western Canada's largest cultural celebration. We will invite three representatives from each Indigenous region to plan with us how to best invite 500 athletes and cultural participants from our seven regions. Since there is very wide support for the WIN Games, including by former High Commissioner Mary Robinson and International Olympic Committee President H.E. Juan Antonio Samaranch among others, we urge this 7th Session to call on Indigenous Nations and member states of the United Nations to likewise support our youth in pursuit of excellence and positive lifestyle choices.

This statement is an excerpt of the written report submitted by the North America Region Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 7th Session (UNPFII7) held February 22 – 23, 2008, Coast Salish Territory, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, attended by 49 representatives from 38 Indigenous Nations and organizations from North America (United States and Canada). The report in its entirety is available as Conference Room Paper (CRP) 4 in the official documents for this session [E/C.19/2008/CRP.4].

Addressing agenda item 9, "*Future work of the Permanent Forum, including emerging issues*," the participants in this meeting from the North American region respectfully express the following to this session of the UNPFII:

On two related matters from the North American Region Preparatory Meeting previously circulated on CRP 4 [E/C.19/2008/CRP.4] draw respectfully, your attention to paragraphs 51 and 78 to 80, which state:

"51. Participants affirmed their support for the unprecedented level of Indigenous participation in the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in British Columbia, Canada. Participants also noted that these Games can provide an important opportunity for Indigenous Peoples and the world community to promote human rights and address the human rights record and actions of Canada on the local, provincial, national and international levels.

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78. Participants recommended that the special theme of the UNPFII 8 in 2009 should be "Implementation of the *United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*: local, regional, national and international strategies and actions"[, in particular the implementation of the right to self-determination.] Participants made this proposal for consideration by the members of the UNPFII at its 7th session and to other Indigenous regions for their consideration, and requested that Indigenous Peoples, tribes and First Nations as well as States and UN agencies be asked to report on steps taken in this regard at the next session.

79. Participants strongly recommended and affirmed that delegations representing Indigenous Nations and governments be provided with credentials in their capacity as Nations and governments rather than as non-governmental organizations, for the purpose of their participation in the UNPFII.

80. Participants expressed strong concern over the new regulations for "side events" at the UNPFII, including a requirement that States or UN agencies must sponsor all film and video showings by Indigenous Peoples at side events, and urged the UNPFII members to develop their own criteria and regulations in this regard, with the input of all participants at the UNPFII."

Thank you.