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**7<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**  
**April 21 – May 2, 2008**

**Joint Statement made by Mr. Athili Sapriina,  
Executive Member, Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR) and  
Member, Co-ordinating Committee, Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network (APIYN).**

**Agenda Item 9: Future works of the Permanent Forum**

*Respected Chairperson and members of this august house,*

We reaffirm the recommendations made by caucuses of Asia, the Pacific and other Regions, including the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus in previous sessions, and in this 7th session, concerning critical human rights issues.

I bring to your notice the efforts made to mobilize the youth, particularly the First International Indigenous Youth Conference (IYIC-2002) held in the Philippines with representation from Europe, North America, Latin America, Pacific. The Second IYIC-2005 held in Vancouver, Canada achieved greater success with representation from Africa and the Arctic, and efforts continue to widen the network.

To strengthen regional co-ordination, the Founding Conference of the Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network (APIYN) was held last year at Baguio, Philippines.

We received technical and financial support from many, including Primates World Relief and Development Fund, World Council of Churches, Indigenous Peoples Network for Change, Land is Life, Global Forest Coalition, United Church of Canada, Heinrich Boll Foundation, Tebtebba, Cordillera Youth Centre and the **UN Voluntary Fund**.

The youth faces considerable challenges while possessing the capacity to contribute significantly to the ensuring the realization of Rights.

Madam Chair, we must point out that Nation States have devised ways to misdirect and engage the youth, using their propaganda machinery particularly the media and intelligence agencies. They continue to monitor our movements and create divisions using people who have been co-opted within the existing systems and structures.

We do not believe solutions to contentious issues of Indigenous Peoples always lie within the structures of existing State Systems. Political dialogues have often been used to further dominate us. For instance, political accords signed by Nation States with Indigenous Peoples in Asia have not been honoured. In cases such as the Indo-Naga issue, India has not taken sufficient steps to allow the negotiations to move forward since a ceasefire was signed in August 1997.

A high degree of militarization experienced in the Asia-Pacific have made the youth particularly vulnerable to state brutality, unemployment and HIV/AIDS.

Our struggles do not only aim to liberate ourselves, but also those who have historically trampled upon our lives and hurt our dignity. We repose hope and faith in the ability of Nations States and dominant communities to be bold in taking actions that will promote Just Peace. We also denounce Nation States who promote some organizations claiming to represent Indigenous Peoples while they are not.

**Recommendations:**

- 1. Provide information and guidelines about the technical and financial support available within the PFII, Governments and NGOs.**
- 2. Urge Governments and NGOs to provide technical and financial support on the following activities:**
  - a. Research on the Dis-aggregation of data on Children and Youth**
  - b. Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network in organizing Bi-Annual conferences (2009)**
  - c. 3<sup>rd</sup> International Indigenous Youth Conference (IIYC)**
- 3. Transmission of traditional knowledge from elders to youth within the process of the 5-Year plan of work on UNFCCC, including promotion of Indigenous peoples histories and culture.**
- 4. Reiterate the continued inclusion of Youth as beneficiaries and of the Voluntary Fund.**
- 5. Direct participation of our representatives in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme of action for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Decade.**
- 6. Indigenous Youth participate in the UN's Commission for Social Development**
- 7. Nations States be urged to immediately halt Counter Insurgency measures using the media, propaganda and developmental schemes.**
- 8. That, the UN Special Rapportuer and UN Experts visit Nagaland and the region which has been blacked out for too long.**

Thank you for your kind attention, Madam Chair.

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