

6<sup>th</sup> Session of UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

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Agenda Item 9: Future action

Statement by

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Madame Chairperson,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and privilege for me to address the Sixth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as a member of indigenous organization in Bangladesh. I want to say some words on the issues faced by indigenous children and youth and Permanent Forum should have special emphasize for the empowerment of indigenous youth. Indigenous young woman should be involved in decision-making process at all levels in the countries in which they live.

Today, many indigenous peoples are engaged in a struggle to remain on their ancestral lands and retain the right to their natural resources. Other indigenous peoples have long since been removed from their lands, denied their languages and traditional ways, consequently been left impoverished.

Indigenous youth are the main actors in this struggle to protect their lands, culture, resources and identity. Children and youth are also central to the safeguarding of knowledge and linked to their cultural and natural heritage. They are the bearers and transmitters of their cultures, but their own situation is perilous. They live under condition of exclusion, marginalization, racism and discrimination that prevent them from developing as human beings and full citizens with rights of their own.

The world's indigenous children and youth face many problems like lack of access to education, health care services, malnutrition, and massive migration towards cities, lack of legal protection, unemployment and discrimination.

Therefore, I do recommend to the Permanent Forum that during the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People, the issues of indigenous youth and children should highly be given emphasized and some special programmes be taken directly focusing indigenous youth. We would like to see more active participation of youth at the annual sessions and in the ongoing work of the Forum. I also recommend the full participation of young people at local, national and international levels. Secondly, programmes of education on the human rights of indigenous peoples should be developed and strengthened including relevant training materials that are culturally appropriate.

Thank you.