

Fifteenth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
United Nations Headquarters, New York  
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Agenda Item 10: Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the  
Economic and Social Council and emerging issues

Statement on behalf of the National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF),  
Nepal

Mr. Chair, distinguished representatives, indigenous sisters and brothers,

I am Yasso Kanti Bhattachan representing National Indigenous Women Forum from Nepal. Given the fact that we indigenous peoples are nations, with right to self-determination, the current modality of indigenous peoples' participation in the entire UN system should be changed from NGO to a new category as determined by all indigenous peoples. Any modality that should be developed must put indigenous peoples' customary institutions and customary process of representation at the center, and there should be no interference from the state. As long as current modality continues, there is a need to establish a national unit of UNPFII in all member states of the United Nations not only to monitor existing conflicts, specially violent ones, but also to carry out indigenous budgeting and auditing of all the UN agencies and other international aid agencies so as to prevent from conflicts to emerge and/or intensify, and to establish special fund for indigenous peoples in each UN member state.

Thank you.