

Seventh Session of UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
April 21 to May 2, 2008

Agenda Item 9: Future Work of the Permanent Forum

Asia Caucus Statement by: Sanjeeb Drong

Madame Chairperson, distinguished delegates from governments, UN Agencies, NGOs, indigenous brothers and sisters, ladies and gentlemen, the Asia Indigenous caucus wish to propose key issues to be undertaken by the UNPF as part of its future work.

First, indigenous peoples across the globe are facing serious problems and threats related to corporate mining and other extractive industries. The impacts of these activities in indigenous territories affect all the dimensions of indigenous life, survival and development which also include the social, cultural, spiritual and economic spheres.

It is then incumbent that the UNPFII **undertake appropriate activities and make recommendations about mining and other extractive industries**, which comprise a significant threat to indigenous peoples' rights, livelihoods and well-being around the world.

Indigenous Peoples' efforts to promote self-determined development which build on traditional economies and sustainable development are being wiped out and destroyed by unsustainable extractive industries.

Holding an expert workshop on this theme has become very urgent in the light of the compounding negative impacts of mining on indigenous peoples' rights, the environment and the climate. Regrettably, earlier recommendations made by the UNPFII in Sessions 4, 5 and 6 for such a workshop to take place have not materialized.

Bearing in mind the upcoming UNCSD18 discussions on Mining, Chemicals, Waste Management, Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, written inputs from Indigenous Peoples will be needed in 2009 to contribute to UNCSD18's review year in 2010. By holding a technical workshop in 2009 on **Indigenous Peoples Rights, Corporate Accountability and the Extractive Industries**, the UNPFII will serve the best interests of mining-affected indigenous peoples, as well as making an important contribution to the global review and policy-setting on the themes covered by UNCSD 18.

Madame Chair, our second recommendation is to adopt the theme "Implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) to promote sustainable development" for its 8th Session in 2009.

This theme will open up greater dialogues, interactions and collaboration between governments, UN agencies, indigenous organizations and institutions to move forward in making the UNDRIP a living document for the genuine development of indigenous peoples. Further, it will also encompass further discussions on the thematic areas of the Permanent Forum in relation to the UNDRIP, especially in the implementation of the concrete recommendations it has submitted to the ECOSOC.

With our proposed theme on the UNDRIP and sustainable development of indigenous peoples, we believe that this will also lead to constructive proposals and recommendations from the various participants, especially from governments, UN agencies and Funds, indigenous organizations and institutions on wide ranging activities and programmes, as well as policy development in line with the implementation of the UNDRIP at the local, national, regional and international levels.

Thank you, Madame Chairperson and expert members of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

April 30, 2008