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Joint Statement by
Ujana Larma Talukdar
Parbatya Chhattagram Jana Sanhati Samiti (PCJSS)
Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum
Kapaeeng Foundation,
Jum Chab Metta Foundation
American Jumma Council
E-mail: chtasg_asia@yahoo.com, pcjss.org@gmail.com

Agenda Item 8:
Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues of the Economic and Social
Council and emerging issues

Thank you, Mr. Chair, distinguished Government delegates, honorable indigenous sisters and brothers,

I would like to recommend the following proposals for the future work of the Permanent Forum:

1. Permanent Forum should work on Peace Building and Conflict Resolution aiming at ensuring peace and socio-economic development for Indigenous Peoples. Armed conflict and militarization are major urgent issues confronting indigenous peoples of Asia and elsewhere. We believe that the Permanent Forum can initiate further discussions and dialogues on these issues towards, to provide adequate remedies.
2. Permanent Forum should formulate mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of its recommendations as well as the implementation of treaties, accords, agreements and other constructive arrangements between governments and indigenous peoples. For instance, in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Accord of Bangladesh, popularly known as the *CHT Peace Accord*, was signed between the indigenous Jumma people and Government of Bangladesh in 1997. Like many other treaties, this accord too is not properly and faithfully implemented.
3. Several recommendations of the PFII, remain sadly unimplemented. This is also the case for the recommendations of the 10th session of the Forum. One such recommendation urged the **Government of Bangladesh to declare a timeline and outline modalities of implementation and persons and/or institutions responsible for implementation**. Another recommendation requested the **UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations to prevent military personnel and units that are violating human rights from participating in international peacekeeping activities** under the auspices of the United Nations, in order to maintain the integrity of the indigenous peoples concerned, consistent with the code of conduct for United Nations peacekeeping personnel. However, **the government of Bangladesh and UN**

Department of Peacekeeping Operations are yet to take any effective measures for implementation of these recommendations.

4. Permanent Forum should conduct a detailed study on violence against indigenous women and its impact on indigenous society. Like in many other parts of the world, the indigenous women of Bangladesh are facing serious human rights violations in term of militarization, land dispossession and population transfer or transmigration, among others. Over the last few decades, indigenous Jumma women of the CHT have been the key victims of the 'ethnic cleansing' programme inflicted on Jumma people by the successive governments of Bangladesh, with well-planned Bengali settlement coupled with sharp militarization in the region. Jumma women have been victims of sexual harassment, rape, mass rape, kidnap and murder by the Bengali settlers and security forces. Most of these cases remain without independent and impartial enquiry and investigation, the perpetrators unpunished, and no sign of the decrease of such incidents.

Thank you Mr. Chair.