

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Fourteenth Session
April 20 - May 1, 2015
Global Indigenous Women's Caucus

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

Madame Chair, Esteemed Members of the Permanent Forum, representatives of Indigenous Peoples, sisters and brothers,
Madame Chair, the Global Indigenous Women's Caucus would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Chair for this fourteenth session of the Permanent forum. It is always welcomed to have Indigenous women in leadership roles.

We would like to take a few moments to acknowledge one of the founding Mothers of our caucus, Tonya Gonnella Frichner of the Onondaga Nation, who also served as Permanent Forum Expert member representing the North American region from 2008-2010. Tonya advocated not only for her own people and region, she also advanced critical Indigenous Women and girls issues to the world community. Part of her life's work was to ensure that Indigenous women and girl's voices were present and most importantly, heard. It is with a heavy heart that we continue her legacy in ensuring that Indigenous women's rights are uplifted. We walk in her footsteps.

The Global Indigenous Women's Caucus would like to offer the following recommendations In regards to the future work of the Permanent Forum:

Recalling the recommendations made in paragraphs 4 to 11 of the report on its tenth session (E/2011/43-E/C.19/2011/14 and Corr.1) and the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum expresses alarm regarding the contemporary application of the erroneous and discredited "doctrine of discovery" and its underlying assumptions, which promote the purported inferiority of indigenous peoples.

Reiterating the Permanent Forums recommendation that States, human rights bodies and judiciaries denounce the "doctrine of discovery" and discontinue its use and application, as stated in paragraph 49 of the twelfth session of the UNPFII.

Emphasizing the Permanent Forums' recommendation for States to repudiate such doctrines as the basis for denying Indigenous Peoples' human rights, we reiterate the recommendation of the 11th session of the Permanent Forum, that States include in all education curricula, in particular the school system, a discussion of the doctrine of discovery/dispossession and its contemporary manifestations, including land laws and policies of removal.

Recognizing the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean's 2010 report on indigenous peoples, urbanization and migration, we call for the Permanent Forum to urge the United Nations Population Fund and other regional mechanisms, in collaboration with indigenous peoples, to conduct further studies, in all regions, on urbanization and migration with an emphasis on Indigenous women and youth.

We urge the Permanent Forum to recommend to ECOSOC, in coordination with UNEP, a call for the coordination of an official UN Experts Meeting on Water that specifically initiates a close review and assessment of Water allocation, regulation and access policies affecting the rights of Indigenous Nations. This high level Experts Meeting on Water can explore and establish indicators of Water Well-being for Indigenous Nations, and the world community.

We also wish to address the rightful status of Indigenous Peoples and Nations participation in all UN fora. This is regarding an appropriate status for Indigenous Peoples participating in UN activities. We do agree that "Indigenous Peoples deserve to have a permanent status for participation in the UN that reflects their character as peoples and governments," and we would respectfully request that traditional Indigenous Nations be included in this recommendation along with peoples and governments.

We thank you madame chair for your full consideration of these recommendations.