



Tebtebba

Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education
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NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN

09 June 2016

His Excellency Oh Joon
President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
United Nations

Re: Appointment of indigenous-nominated members to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

His Excellency,

Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education), together with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Caucus, express our concern regarding the non-appointment of Ms. Joan Carling as the indigenous-nominated member from Asia to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

As per ECOSOC resolution E/2000/22, which established the Permanent Forum, the President of the Council shall appoint eight of the 16 members of the Permanent Forum "following formal consultation with the Bureau and the regional groups through their coordinators, on the basis of broad consultations with indigenous organizations, taking into account the diversity and geographical distribution of the indigenous people of the world as well as the principles of transparency, representativity and equal opportunity for all indigenous people, including internal processes, when appropriate, and local indigenous consultation processes..."

Indigenous peoples' organizations in Asia have since then established a process of consultation through which the past and current indigenous-nominated members of the Permanent Forum from the region were nominated. It was also through this process that Ms. Joan Carling, current member of the Permanent Forum, was nominated for a second term. The process, facilitated by Tebtebba, was undertaken from October 2015 to January 2016.

The non-appointment of Ms. Carling, being the person nominated by indigenous peoples' organizations in the region, is inconsistent with ECOSOC resolution E/2000/22, which could serve as a bad precedent affecting the integrity of the defined selection process. Furthermore, this is an affront to an indigenous-led and indigenous-defined process.

Thus, we strongly urge the President to give due respect to the consultation processes of the indigenous peoples in Asia, which has been the past practice, and reconsider Ms. Joan Carling as the indigenous-nominated member to the Permanent Forum without further delay.

Thank you very much for your kind attention and we look forward to your action on the matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. De Chavez', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Raymond De Chavez
Deputy Director
Tebtebba