

**Sixth Session of the UN PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES
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Delivered by Ruth S. Batani

Agenda Item 6

Joint Statement by the Asian Indigenous Women's Network, Indigenous Women's Forum of North East India, Tebtebba Foundation, Western Sumi Hoho, Lamkang Women's Union, Community Action and Research for Development, Boro Women's Justice Forum, Ainu Resource Centre, and The NGO Forum of Cambodia

The Asian Indigenous Women's Network would like to inform the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues that it has implemented the following major activities from January 2006 to the first quarter of 2007 in line with its objective of capacity building among indigenous women :

1. The AIWN held capacity building trainings for its member organizations in Indonesia, Philippines, Bangladesh and India with support from Novib and the International Indigenous Women's Forum. The trainings were designed as a general orientation on gender and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women on the purview of Indigenous Peoples rights. Activities revolved around the understanding local vis-a-vis national and global situations, identifying issues/concerns, best practice and strategies vis-a-vis the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous women – as women, as indigenous peoples and as marginalized sector.
2. Three representatives of AIWN from the Philippines, Nepal and Bangladesh also participated in the different activities during the 50th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in 27 February – 10 March 2006 and developed a policy paper “Violence Against Indigenous Women : A Disabling Environment” which was forwarded to the said Commission.
3. Participation to the Asia Regional Consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples in Cambodia, February 2007. The AIWN made an overview report on the status of human rights and freedoms of indigenous women in the region that was submitted to the Special Rapporteur. This has been further validated and enriched in the different country reports submitted and presented during the said consultation
4. The Asian Indigenous Women's Network (AIWN) and the Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN: Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara), in partnership with Rights & Democracy have prepared an information kit to highlight the work of indigenous women who are acting at the local, national and international levels to insist that their rights be respected. This kit is an adaptation of the kit *Indigenous Women of the Americas*, published by Rights & Democracy in partnership with the Continental Network of Indigenous Women, Enlace and the Quebec Native Women at the end of the first International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

Based on these activities we would like to forward the following general observations and recommendations on the situation of indigenous women in Asia with emphasis on their rights and freedoms as indigenous peoples:

1] The UNPFII to renew the call for immediate demilitarization of Indigenous Peoples lands and territories to ensure the continuous access and control of Indigenous Women of their territories, lands and resources. The almost familiar displacement of indigenous peoples of their territories leaves the indigenous women more marginalized. For example, everytime they are displaced of their territories, it is the women who have to walk longer distances to fetch water, find food and medicinal plants.

2] To reaffirm the continuing validity of the findings of the study of Ms. Erica Irene-Daes on the failure of governments to promote and protect the rights of the Indigenous Peoples on their lands, territories and natural resources. The most outstanding hindrances to the full realization of human security and development for indigenous women is the non-recognition of the state of indigenous peoples and their rights and the systematic and continuing violence they experience from militarization and development aggression.

3] to support the findings of the study conducted by Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz and Parshuram Tamang on Oil Plantation and other Commercial Tree Plantations, Monocropping as it impacts on IP lands and communities; also to further support the recommendation for the PF to prepare a special report on "Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change Convention" which will highlight the complex implications of biofuels, carbon sinks and carbon emission trading

4. Mobilize resources and support to afford the Continuing implementation of capacity building efforts for indigenous women to constructively engage the different human rights instruments, processes and venues towards the facilitation of their effective participation in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;

5. Development of data systems that reflect indigenous women's situations, status and perspectives including the institutionalization of data disaggregation by gender and ethnicity;

6. The commission to conduct a more comprehensive study on indigenous women's perspectives on the CEDAW and VAW towards the formulation of a general recommendation to the CEDAW. In this respect, we urge the Human Rights Council in cooperation with the Commission on the Status of Women, to provide a mechanism through the Special Rapporteurs to look into the grave and systematic violations of the fundamental rights and freedoms of indigenous women including trafficking of women and children particularly in Asia, which is home to a majority of the world's indigenous peoples;

7. For the UNPFII to call on the institutionalization of the Free Prior Informed Consent in any development endeavor. This is to give premium to human security in all forms of development initiatives through the recognition and institutionalization of free prior and informed consent that consciously include women 'participation in the process and indigenous sustainable systems and practices that ensures the territorial and cultural integrity of indigenous peoples.

Thank you Madam Chair.

