



# **United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

## **Report on the Second session (12-23 May 2003)**

**Recommendations Specifically Pertaining to  
Indigenous Women and the Girl Child, adopted by  
the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

## **Recommendations adopted under the Special Theme: Indigenous Children and Youth**

### **1. Indigenous children and youth**

16. The Forum recommends that the United Nations system, in particular UNICEF and WHO, in collaboration with Governments and in consultation with indigenous peoples' organizations, and with the participation and input from the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, address issues related to the trafficking and sexual exploitation of indigenous girls, and urges States to create programmes of rehabilitation.

20. The Forum, taking into account that indigenous children, youth and women are more vulnerable and are often physically and psychologically mistreated, and that children represent the future of indigenous peoples, recommends that the Council support the declaration of an international day or an international year of the indigenous child, to be celebrated with awareness-raising activities to honor the cultural identity of indigenous peoples.

### **4. Health**

64. The Forum recommends that WHO, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, and the United Nations Population Fund convene a workshop on indigenous health, with the goal of addressing a system-wide strategy to address the health needs of indigenous peoples and setting out the terms of reference for a study on the health needs of indigenous peoples, with particular emphasis on indigenous children and women including infant mortality, reproductive rights, sterilization, domestic abuse and addiction and the collection of data relating to these issues. The Forum recommends that its focal point and a representative of the Indigenous Peoples. Caucus on Health be invited to attend and be provided the means to participate.

65. The Forum urges the Global Alliance For Vaccination Initiatives (GAVI) to sponsor a workshop and also urges UNDP to co-sponsor a workshop to expand global programmes for immunization and vaccination of indigenous women and children and to assess the need for safety protocols relating thereto. The Permanent Forum recommends that its focal point in health and a representative of the Indigenous Peoples. Caucus on Health be invited to attend and be provided the means to participate.

### **Other specific issues**

77. The Forum recommends that the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences pay special attention to the impact of violence against indigenous women, including war-related violence and domestic violence.

81. The Forum recommends that the Working Group on Indigenous Populations undertake a study on genocidal and ethnocidal practices perpetrated on indigenous peoples, including programmes for sterilization of indigenous women and girls, the use of indigenous communities as subjects for nuclear testing or storage of radioactive waste and the testing of unapproved drugs on indigenous children and peoples.

## **7. Education**

108. The Forum recalls its mandate to “prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues”<sup>1</sup> and invites indigenous peoples’ organizations to consider creative ways of educating and disseminating information on the Forum to indigenous peoples’ organizations and communities, including through art, workshops, radio programmes, posters, indigenous journalism and other culturally appropriate media. To that end, the Forum recommends that the programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations system allocate appropriate resources for this purpose, assist in the production of such materials, include indigenous professionals in the production of such materials and report to the Forum at its third session on the extent to which they have been able to incorporate these actions into their programmes of work. The Forum also recommends that the United Nations Development Fund for Women allocate funding for capacity-building in connection with the Forum and for special outreach to indigenous women. The Forum furthermore recommends that the United Nations Children’s Fund allocate funding for capacity-building in connection with the Forum and for special outreach to indigenous children and youth.

## **9. Future of the work of the Forum**

### **Indigenous women**

128. The Forum recommends that the Economic and Social Council, the relevant United Nations cooperating agencies and Governments of the region provide technical facilities and grant the necessary political and moral support for organizing:

- (a) The Fourth Continental Summit of Indigenous Women of the Americas, to be held in Lima in March 2004;
- (b) The Second Continental Conference of Indigenous Women of Africa, to be held in Nairobi, 2003;
- (c) The Second Conference of Asian Indigenous Women, to be held in 2004.

129. The Forum recommends that the special theme of its third session be, “Indigenous women”.

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<sup>1</sup>

See Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/22, para. 2 (c)