



United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Report on the Ninth Session

(19 April-30 April 2009)

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

Recommendations adopted under the “Ninth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues”

Special theme: “Indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity: articles 3 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”

33. The Permanent Forum recommends that States, United Nations agencies, financial institutions and donors promote and support development processes led and carried out by indigenous women’s organizations, in accordance with articles 3 and 32 of the Declaration, for instance, leadership and capacity-building schools and the creation of funds managed by indigenous women.

Half-day discussion on North America

95. Given the fact that the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women, as well as other forms of violence, including trafficking and domestic violence, has gained increasing public attention in Canada, the Permanent Forum urges the Government of Canada to provide more emergency shelters serving indigenous women, as well as better victim services, and specific programmes to assist indigenous women who have been trafficked.

96. The Permanent Forum welcomes the decision of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people to monitor violence against indigenous women and girls in Canada, including missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, in accordance with his mandate. Furthermore, the Permanent Forum requests that the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, as well as the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, address the situation of violence against indigenous women in the United States as well.

Comprehensive dialogue with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

110. The Permanent Forum welcomes the capacity-building efforts being carried out by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity with the Indigenous Women’s Biodiversity Network for the Latin American and Caribbean Region, thanks to the patronage of the Government of Spain, and encourages other donor Governments to consider sponsoring similar efforts in other regions, in particular in Africa and in the Pacific region.

Future work of the Permanent Forum

124. The Permanent Forum recommends that indigenous peoples’ organizations, particularly those concerned with indigenous women and young people, participate fully in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes related to the Millennium Development Goals. This includes participation in the preparations for the summit

on the Millennium Development Goals through national consultation processes and in decision-making on the proposed summit outcome.

Indigenous women

162. The Permanent Forum notes that 2010 is the review year for the Beijing Platform for Action and for the Millennium Development Goals. Fifteen years after Beijing and 10 years after the Millennium Summit, the situations of poverty faced by indigenous peoples, and their lack of access to basic services like health and education, especially among women, remain pervasive. The Forum reiterates and reaffirms the Beijing Declaration of Indigenous Women as a key tool for achieving the Millennium Development Goals with respect to indigenous women and their communities while advancing commitments to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Forum calls on Governments and United Nations agencies to provide space for indigenous peoples, especially indigenous women, in the different processes leading to the review of the Beijing Platform for Action and the review of the Millennium Development Goals to be undertaken at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly in September 2010.

163. The Permanent Forum recommends that States, relevant United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations and bilateral donors support strategies for intercultural prevention and eradication of violence against women that are designed and driven by indigenous women's organizations and that consider indigenous approaches to address gender-based violence.

164. The Permanent Forum recommends that States, United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations and bilateral donors support the promotion and full and effective participation of indigenous women in decision-making spheres at all levels, including in administration and civil service, government action, government bodies, political parties, the judiciary and trade unions and that leadership and training processes be considered as pillars for such participation.

165. The Permanent Forum recommends that States: ensure that the collection of statistical data be disaggregated by sex and ethnicity; discourage monitoring that is focused only on national averages; ensure indigenous peoples' and indigenous women's effective participation in all stages of the preparation, coordination and implementation of data collection; develop a proper system of indicators in partnership with indigenous peoples and women; and enable a measurement of progress in the different areas.

166. The Permanent Forum recommends that States include ethnic identification in vital statistics and health records, allocate more funding for intercultural services that ensure indigenous women's access to quality health care, including emergency obstetric care, voluntary family planning and skilled attendants at delivery, and that the role of traditional midwives be strengthened and extended.