

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Fourteenth Session
New York, 20 April to 1 May 2015
Items 6 and 3 (b), Indigenous Peoples: Post-2015 Development Agenda, with
Special Focus on the Issues of Food, Hunger and Disease

Participants in the Project Access Capacity Training Workshop (Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and the Pacific) at the Fourteenth Session of the UNPFII (2015) include: the International Indian Treaty Council; Tribal Link; United Confederation of Taíno People; Caribbean Amerindian Development Organization; Pacific Disability Forum; Akali Tanga Association; Saniri Alifaru; Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network; Dewan Adat Papua; Tamu Bauddha Sewa Samiti Nepal; and The Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People

Presented by: Nicole María Yanes

Thank you, Madame Chair.

We Indigenous Peoples from five regions of the world have been sharing concerns and exchanging experiences about the problems we are facing with regard to food, hunger and disease.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for their interest in and collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, as was demonstrated in the meeting between Indigenous Peoples and the FAO last February in Rome.

We reaffirm together the 2002 Declaration of Atitlán drafted in Sololá, Guatemala, which states that “for Indigenous Peoples, the rights to land, water, and territory, as well as the right to self-determination, are essential for the full realization of our Food Security and Food Sovereignty”.

The violation of the right to free, prior and informed consent, which is mentioned in Article 19 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, constitutes a serious and ongoing threat to health, water and food in our indigenous lands. States and private enterprises continue to commit environmental violence through the manufacture, exportation, use and application of pesticides and other toxins that are prohibited. One tragic example was presented to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) through a monitoring body on aerial fumigations using prohibited pesticides in exporting countries. For example, in Río Yaqui, Sonora, Mexico, impacts include cancers in children, and in adults, primarily, birth defects, as well as other devastating impacts on natural resources. In August 2014, CERD called on the United States to “take appropriate measures to prevent the activities of transnational corporations registered in the State party which could have adverse effects on the enjoyment of human rights by local populations in other countries, especially by indigenous peoples and minorities”.

Monoculture in industrial production is a main cause of toxic contamination of food and water, and the cause of a crisis of diseases impacting indigenous and non-indigenous people around the world. It contributes significantly to climate change caused by deforestation. Two serious examples of Indigenous Peoples affected by this in the Americas are: the Guaraní of Paraguay and the Kariri-Xoco of Brazil.

We Indigenous Peoples call for the conservation of the purity of our natural resources since they are resources that come from our Mother Earth and are a source of food and health free from GMOs. These elements are the source of our physical, mental, cultural and spiritual health as Indigenous Peoples.

Recommendations:

1. We recommend that the States revisit the implementation of, and take concrete actions on, the recommendations found in the final report on the Tenth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in reference to the half-day discussion on the right to water and indigenous peoples.

2. Based on the fourth paragraph of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, we recommend the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular Articles 20, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29 and 31, which pertain to the issues of food, health and natural resources.

Thank you very much.