

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 12th session, May 20 – 31, 2013
Agenda Item 8, Future Work of the Permanent Forum and the Post-2015 Development Goals
Intervention by the International Indian Treaty Council
Presented by Andrea Carmen

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The report of the 11th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues addressed the World Conference on Sustainable Development, “Rio + 20” stating in paragraph 63 that *“The Permanent Forum recommends that the Conference approve the cultural indicators as a fourth “pillar” for the elaboration of development policies for all peoples.”*

While affirming the importance of culture regarding Sustainable Development, the Rio + 20 outcome document “The Future We Want” failed to affirm culture as the 4th pillar. However, this continues to be the firm stand of Indigenous Peoples participating in the current discussions on the UN post- 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

Indigenous Peoples and organizations from all regions of the world met at the **“Indigenous Peoples International Conference on Sustainable Development and Self Determination,”** from June 17th – 19th 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in conjunction with the United Nations World Conference on Sustainable Development, “Rio + 20”. Themes included extractive industries, mega-project damming and other forms of imposed development; implementation of Free Prior and Informed Consent; and Food Sovereignty. The conference and preparatory work for Rio + 20 was organized over two years by a Global Coordinating Committee with participation by Indigenous Peoples from all regions.

Over 77 Peoples, organizations and United Nations Indigenous Experts from the Permanent Forum, EMRIP and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination adopted the **“Rio + 20 Indigenous Peoples’ International Declaration on Sustainable Development and Self-Determination”** on 19 June, 2012. It was also endorsed by the over 2000 Indigenous representatives attending the IX Terra Livre Encampment at the Rio + 20 Peoples’ Summit. The Declaration was officially presented to the President of the World Conference and summarized for all State delegations in a high level plenary session of the UN World Conference on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group on June 20th, 2012. The full Rio + 20 Indigenous Peoples Declaration in English and Spanish is available in the Conference Room Paper submitted for this agenda item by IITC, CADPI and Tebtebba Foundation as members of the Global Coordinating Committee from three regions.

The Declaration affirmed the three core elements and priorities for Sustainable Development for Indigenous Peoples: **1) Culture as a fundamental dimension of Sustainable Development; 2) Full exercise of the rights of Indigenous Peoples; and 3) Strengthening diverse local economies and territorial management.**

Based on these important international developments since the last session of the Permanent Forum, and the need to ensure direct participation by Indigenous Peoples in the current work within the UN system to draft post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, we submit the following recommendations:

- 1) We call upon the Permanent Forum to hold an Expert Seminar on *“The Cultural Pillar for Sustainable Development including Food Sovereignty based on Articles 20, 25, 26, 29, 31 and 32 of the UN Declaration in the context of the 2015 Development Goals”*, with a report to be presented at the 13th Session of the UNPFI.
- 2) We request that the UN Permanent Forum endorse and recognize an Indigenous Peoples Global Working Group on the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals to continue the work of the Indigenous Peoples Global Coordinating Committee for Rio + 20 and ensure ongoing engagement in this vital process which will have profound and direct impacts on Indigenous Peoples and communities in all regions.
- 3) Finally Mr. Chairman, we request, in keeping with the consistent calls by Indigenous Peoples both before and since the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and in light of recommendations made at previous sessions, that the Permanent Forum decide at this session to change the name of this body to the “UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous **Peoples**.” This would be consistent with the Minimum Standard adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and would go far towards affirming the dignity and standing of this body and the thousands of Indigenous Peoples who continue to participate.

We support and urge the Permanent Forum to make this change as a decision of this session rather than as a recommendation, and to invite the UN Economic and Social Council to support this decision.

Thank you Mr. Chairman