

**NINTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES
April 19 to 30, 2010
United Nations Headquarters, New York City**

**STATEMENT OF THE
UNITED CONFEDERATION OF TAINO PEOPLE
Office of International Relations and Regional Coordination**

AGENDA ITEM 6: Comprehensive Dialogue with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Takahi Guaitiao (Greetings Relatives): The UCTP welcomes this opportunity to engage the Convention on Biological Diversity on key issues of concern to Caribbean Indigenous Peoples. We encourage the UNPFII to continue to provide this type of opportunity for dialogue between Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations System.

Mr. Chairman, consistent with Article 3 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the UCTP would like to take this opportunity to commend the CBD Secretariat for its inclusion of Caribbean Indigenous representatives within areas of its work focusing on Cross Cutting Issues. That the CBD has on occasion included indigenous representatives from the island of Boriken (Puerto Rico) is further cause for commendation.

With this in mind, we recommend that CBD urge other members of the Inter-Agency Support Group to follow this precedent without discrimination across the UN System.

Further and with a view to increase the effectiveness of the Caribbean region's participation within CBD initiatives, the UCTP also recommends the following:

- 1.) That consideration is given to increasing the opportunities for Caribbean Indigenous delegates to participate in CBD initiatives. In the past, participation assistance has been made available to only one indigenous Caribbean representative per meeting.**
- 2.) That Caribbean Indigenous Peoples also be engaged within Thematic areas of focus such as Island Biodiversity etc.**
- 3.) That the CBD report to the UNPFII at its 10th session if Caribbean Indigenous Peoples have been included within National Biodiversity Strategies, Action Plans (NBSAPs), and or the National reports of the relevant parties to the Convention. If Caribbean Indigenous Peoples are not included in NBSAPs and or National Reports, the CBD should engage the parties to determine the rationale for exclusion.**

In closing Mr. Chairman, the UCTP recommends that the CBD organize a Caribbean Regional Capacity Building Session to take place on a Caribbean Island with the collaboration of recognized Local and Regional Caribbean Indigenous Organizations.

The UCTP looks forward to assisting the CBD Secretariat in this capacity.

Haho (Thank you) for your attention.

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