

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

13th session

New York, May 12th – May 23rd, 2014

Agenda Item 7 – Ongoing Priorities (a) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples (d) Post-2015 development Agenda

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Madame Chair, the United Confederation of Taíno People (UCTP) has participated at every session of the UNPFII seeking to raise the visibility and promote a better understanding of the special situations of Indigenous Peoples of the Caribbean.

Unfortunately, while the term Latin America and the Caribbean is promoted at various levels throughout the Permanent Forum sessions, and throughout the United Nations system, the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples of the Caribbean Islands is a rarity rather than the norm.

On the rare occasion when Caribbean Indigenous Peoples, indigenous islanders in particular, are highlighted within the system, there is insufficient follow-up action on the part of U.N agencies or governments.

The Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, under Item 6 Social and economic development, section b-85 states, for example, and I quote:

"It is recommended that representatives of Caribbean indigenous peoples should be included in region-specific consultations and conferences in Latin America and the Caribbean, and on steering committees for planning and implementing the programme of activities for the Second International Decade. Serious consideration should also be given to organizing a special regional consultative session focusing on the unique situation of Caribbean indigenous peoples, which would take place in the Caribbean, hosted by a Member State and a local indigenous community."

Madame Chair, to date there has been no such meeting and no meaningful dialog with Caribbean Indigenous Peoples; we are now coming to the close of the Second Decade.

With this in mind, the UCTP recommends that the Permanent Forum:

1.) Call on the Inter-Agency Support Group and Governments to support a regional consultative meeting on the situation of Caribbean Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous Peoples of non-self governing territories and unincorporated territories in the region, without discrimination.

2.) In cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, organize and hold an expert group meeting on the situation of Indigenous Peoples in non-self governing territories and unincorporated territories in 2015 and report on said meeting at its 14th session.

3.) Call upon States to proclaim a 3rd International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, which could continue to highlight the special situation of Indigenous Peoples, monitor the implementation of the UNDRIP, and assist in promoting the priorities of Indigenous Peoples in the post-2015 Development Agenda.

4.) Call upon the 3rd International Conference on Small Island Developing States to insure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in the preparatory process leading up to the conference, as well as highlight the special situation of Indigenous Peoples within its outcome document and follow-up mechanisms.

Madam chair, in closing the UCTP takes the opportunity to congratulate you on your election. Further, we would like to commend the Organizing Partners of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development for their good work disseminating information on the post-2015 Development Agenda.

Finally, the UCTP also supports the statement of the Pacific Regional Caucus presented yesterday regarding the "Global Caucus" statement delivered by Gabriel Altamirano on Agenda Item 6: World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

Hahom (thank you).