



**Native Youth Sexual Health Network and International Indian Treaty Council
Joint Statement
Agenda Item 7(b)
Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

**Honorable Chairperson, Members of the Permanent Forum,
Distinguished representatives of Indigenous Peoples, all my relations.**

We are grateful to have this opportunity to voice our strong opinions on the issue at hand.

We present this statement in conjunction with the International Indian Treaty Council. Our land and bodies are interrelated. With this sentiment in mind, I am here to represent sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice issues as they relate to your role as the Special Rapporteur on behalf of the Native Youth Sexual Health Network. Our Indigenous ways of living emphasize that we are all related and that one issue does not stand on its own. This must be taken into account when addressing the following recommendations:

1. Following up on the Special Rapporteur's study on extractive industries, we recommend that a follow-up study be conducted on the specific connections between environmental violence, extractive industries and reproductive health with a specific theme on state and transnational corporations obligations to respect, protect and the fulfill the right to free, prior and informed consent for Indigenous Peoples. As further support for this theme we direct the attention of the Permanent Forum to the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination who in their review of countries like Canada and the US, recommended they prevent Canadian or US transnational corporations from carrying out activities that negatively impact on the enjoyment of the rights of Indigenous Peoples in other territories and hold such corporations accountable. There are related examples found in Latin America and Papua New Guinea where incidents of human rights abuses include sexual violence against Indigenous women and girls. The first and second International Environmental and Reproductive Health symposiums offer a framework, which will aid in conducting a follow up study that will address these cross-cutting issues.

2. We recommend that the Special Rapporteur also incorporate the understanding of the Precautionary Principle as presented in the second declaration which recognizes Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge about the effects of chronic pollution as well as the social stressors caused by development and industry that impact and divide communities. These social stressors include increased mental health concerns, violence against Indigenous women, children, and families, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, incarceration, child removal and suicide.

The NYSHN suggests the following methodology for follow up to the Special Rapporteurs US visit and his upcoming visit to Canada.

1. We thank the Special Rapporteur for the first visit the US has received since the creation of this role. We appreciate the time Dr. Anaya took in listening to the voices of Indigenous

community members who are the experts of their own issues as well as effective solutions. We hope that the issues raised around environmental violence, as well as increased rates of HIV and STIs related to resource extraction, removal of Indigenous children into the child welfare system and the impact of that removal are not forgotten. The reality is a continued widespread reluctance to make sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice a priority in both health platforms and Indigenous issues generally. The historical trauma and legacy of colonialism as evidenced in the Christian Doctrine of Discovery make discussing our sexuality difficult. Difficulty also lies in access to traditional and modern forms of contraception and culturally relevant sex education for Indigenous nations.

2. We recommend that a specific implementation plan be developed to ensure the important recommendations of the Special Rapporteur during thematic studies and country visits are not ignored. We reaffirm the recommendation in session 5 paragraph 21 suggesting annual briefings or report backs from other Special Rapporteurs on cross cutting issues, and to ensure cooperation between UN mechanisms, in a way that supports the further participation of Indigenous Peoples in regards to these processes.

3. We also look forward to the upcoming country visit to Canada and recommend the full cooperation of the Canadian government without state interference or coercion as it is only Indigenous Peoples who can speak with authority on the real issues and situations in our communities. We request you pay special attention to the situation of police violence including the recent release of the Human Rights Watch Report "Those Who Take Us Away: Abusive Policing and Failures in Protection of Indigenous Women and Girls in Northern British Columbia, Canada", and the implications of the recent "Missing Women's Commission of Inquiry" as it relates to Indigenous women and girls, which was called a SHAM by Indigenous Peoples.

4. Following up on the 2004 report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous People, paragraph 106 and 113 we highlight that the urgent nature of rising rates of HIV and STIs is still present in 2013. We recommend that the Special Rapporteur meet with the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network, National Aboriginal Youth Council during his Canadian visit.

The Native Youth Sexual Health Network asserts that the aforementioned recommended subject areas be continually addressed by the Special Rapporteur in an expedient manner. Based on the provided recommendations, a formal action plan can be developed to include follow up visitation to the US and an initial visit to Canada in order to address these contentious matters. Thank you for your time.