

Stockholm Convention COP 5, Geneva, Switzerland April 25-29, 2011
Global Indigenous Peoples Caucus Statement for Item 4(j) Effectiveness Evaluation
Presented by Danika Billie Littlechild, Maskwacis Cree (Canada), International Organization of
Indigenous Resource Development, International Indian Treaty Council
April 27, 2011

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Throughout this session, Indigenous Peoples have stressed the total elimination of POPs chemicals, the impacts of POPs on Indigenous health and communities, and that we must be active participants in the treaty processes.

At COP4 in 2009, and again in our opening statement to this COP5 on April 25, we proposed that a process be implemented for the development of formal mechanisms for the participation of Indigenous Peoples. Given the Technical Report on Climate Change and POPs (as noted in UNEP/POPs/COP.5/INF/26, and the Report of the UNEP/AMAP Expert Group) and its particular emphasis on the impacts felt in the Arctic and Small Islands Developing States, we feel that the inclusion of Indigenous peoples is more important than ever. The special needs of both of these regions was noted in the preamble of the Stockholm Convention.

We propose that the Effectiveness Evaluation Committee specified under UNEP/POPS/COP.5/31 be established by COP5 and include specifically designated seats for Indigenous peoples representatives.

Mr. Chair, we are also proposing that COP 5 create an Indigenous Peoples Working Group on Effectiveness Evaluation and Implementation, consisting of Indigenous Peoples from all regions. A Working Group can assist the Secretariat and the Parties to the Convention to collect, compile and provide expertise and information from scientific studies conducted by and/or in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and organizations as well as information provided by traditional use practitioners and knowledge holders to monitor impacts and levels of POPs in the Arctic, Small Islands Developing States and other regions, and support the effective implementation of the Convention. Further, such a mechanism can assist in the identification of strategic partnership models and capacity enhancement.

In conclusion, Indigenous Peoples participating in COP 5 continue to underscore the importance of recognizing and applying international human rights standards in these discussions, including those upholding and protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Specifically, U.N. *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* Article 42, requires all forums and bodies of the UN to integrate, promote and respect these standards, and Article 18 affirms that IP have the right to participation in decision making in matters that affect their rights.

Thank you.