THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

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Media Advisory

PRESS CONFERENCE

Indigenous Youth:
Overcoming the Challenges of Self-Harm and Suicide

Thursday, 12 May, 1:15 p.m.
Room S-237, UN Headquarters, New York

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Member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (Kenya)

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Co-chair of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (Mexico)

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Arctic Focal Point to the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (Canada)

BACKGROUND:
This year’s session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues includes a discussion on the urgent need to address self-harm and suicide amongst indigenous youth. The issue was highlighted in the 2015 report of the Permanent Forum (E/2015/43-E/C.19/2015/10), which also showed that indigenous communities often experience significantly higher suicide rates than the rest of the population. Suicidal behavior is related to the socio-economic situation of indigenous peoples, but also to their loss of self-identification and departure from traditional culture and ways of life. Indigenous youth will talk about their experiences, the root causes of self-harm and suicide, solutions and best practices, and their recommendations for the way forward.

To schedule an interview, please contact: Martina Donlon, UN Department of Public Information: +1 212-963-6816 or email: donlon@un.org

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For more information on Permanent Forum, please see www.un.org/indigenous