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**Statement on Agenda Item 3 (c): Free, Prior and Informed Consent**

**By: Sarah Dekdeken, Cordillera Peoples Alliance**

Thank you, Madame Chair, for this opportunity to address the Permanent Forum on Agenda Item 3 (c): Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) which remains a major concern of indigenous peoples especially in relation to the entry of mining projects in indigenous territories.

In the Philippines, the government’s aggressive promotion of mining investments purposely for economic growth and development continues to aggravate the plunder of ancestral lands and non-recognition of indigenous peoples’ right to self-determination. Violations of indigenous peoples’ right to the FPIC process persist even with the existence of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of the Philippines and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We commend the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on the right to FPIC. However, it is important to note that these recommendations and the UNDRIP itself have not been fully implemented in the Philippines despite follow-up mechanisms initiated by indigenous peoples themselves through lobby and dialogues with the government and its concerned agencies.

It is in this light that we urgently recommend that the UN system and States, the Philippine government, and mining corporations consider the following priority recommendations in ensuring the genuine implementation of FPIC:

1. The process of acquiring FPIC should not be railroaded by any means. Concerned government agencies, such as the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) in the Philippines, should not work against the interests of indigenous peoples or serve as an instrument of the mining companies.
2. Genuine participation of indigenous peoples in the FPIC process must be guaranteed. The FPIC should not be in any way manipulated by corporations and concerned government agencies.
3. The Philippine government should support House Resolution No. 887 seeking for a review of the FPIC guidelines for mining and other development projects in ancestral domains. The review aims to consolidate proposed amendments to the 2006 FPIC guidelines of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples based on actual cases of FPIC irregularities and inputs from various indigenous communities. This will lead towards the crafting a new FPIC guideline that is consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other relevant international instruments.

Thank you Madame Chair. Thank you everyone for your attention.