ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 15, 16, & 17, 2008, Quebec City, QC

Resolution no. 10/2008

SUBJECT:	Tuberculosis Expert Group Meeting
MOVED BY:	Chief Tsannie-Berseth, Hacket Lake First Nation, SK
SECONDED BY:	Chief Conrad Polson, Timiskaming First Nation, QC
DECISION:	Carried by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) recognizes that each year there are 9.2 million cases of tuberculosis (TB) resulting in 1.7 million deaths around the world. Although 90 percent preventable and curable, TB rates are exacerbated by TB/HIV co-infection and emerging forms of drug resistance disease;

B. The AFN recognizes that 370 million Indigenous peoples spanning 80 countries are also among the poorest and live in the most marginalized communities in the world;

C. Recent TB outbreaks have occurred in Manitoba and Saskatchewan;

D. On April 23, 2008, the AFN organized a side event on TB at the 7th United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). The Indigenous Peoples' Caucus recommended that the UNPFII consider the TB pandemic as urgent and made the following recommendations:

- Support empowerment initiatives in Indigenous communities in addressing TB;
- Support the development and implementation of the Global Indigenous STOP TB Initiative;
- Work with the STOP TB Partnership to enhance the fight against tuberculosis and its associated risk factors;
- Provide political encouragement to the Initiative;
- Advise and facilitate links to the global Indigenous communities;
- Demand resource mobilization efforts to strengthen tuberculosis response among Indigenous communities; and

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- Assist in implementation of article 24(2) of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* which recognizes that Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States are to take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right; and

E. These initiatives have no budgetary implications given that other agencies / states are supporting them (self-finance).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The AFN Public Health unit continues to work towards organizing the Global TB Expert Group meeting in Toronto on November 13 & 14, 2008.
2. That the Global TB Expert Group meeting be convened jointly by the AFN, the UNPFII and the STOP TB Partnership, and that it include global indigenous health leadership and global TB expertise. The purpose of this meeting will be to consider, among other things:
   - the magnitude of the burden of TB in indigenous peoples and the need for disaggregated data;
   - the setting of targets and timelines for indigenous TB control;
   - the development of key messages that are culturally sensitive and language appropriate;
   - the review of best practices and their dissemination; and
   - the participation of the expert group in the meeting of the STOP TB Partnership in Brazil, 2009.
3. The Global TB Expert Group meeting will produce a report, including recommendations, and present this to the 8th session of the UNPFII and the STOP TB Partnership. The expert panel will be convened in the next 12 months.

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