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**Statement by Aqqaluk Lynge
Member, Permanent Forum**

**Regarding UNPFII Recommendations –
Implementation and Formulation Process**

**12:15 pm
Thursday 24 May 2007
6th Session, UNPFII**

**UN Headquarters
New York, NY**

Statement by Aqqaluk Lyngé
Member, Permanent Forum
12:15 pm – Monday 24 May 2007

Thank-you, Madame Chair,

I would like to take a few minutes to respond to the excellent report that you, Madame Chair, and our colleague, Willie Littlechild prepared and which he presented to us yesterday regarding the state of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum since this body was first established.

I would like to thank both of you for the diligent analysis that you presented. There is much to consider in your report and your conclusions and recommendations – about recommendations – were very insightful and important for us all to consider. I would also like to thank all the indigenous representatives here this 6th session who have provided us with so much valuable input and insight.

You outlined several obstacles to the implementation of our recommendations, many of which bear strong attention.

Mr. Littlechild and you, Madame Chair, drew our attention in paragraph 31 of your report to the fact that we members “could strengthen efforts to reduce the number of recommendations at the annual sessions”. I strongly agree with your analysis.

Your report further notes that some of the Member’s work requires “a fine balancing act” when it comes to recommending initiatives that have cost implications. You also mention that the Secretariat’s data base is very helpful and I agree.

On the question of the process of drafting the recommendations. I understand that your analysis focused on the implementation process, but it is my belief that if we gave more thought to developing a systematic approach to receiving ideas, reports, and recommendations – especially from indigenous peoples – then our ability to implement would improve dramatically.

In this regard, I would recommend the following:

1. That the important work each Member does beforehand in his or her region, and the meetings that each respective indigenous caucus holds before the sessions should play a more dominant role in what we do here at the annual meeting.
2. That Permanent Forum members be given more time during the two-week sessions to meet with various caucuses, especially in week one, so that they may consider some additional input that was not formulated before they arrived here.

3. To consider that DESA provide professional editors, and not only translators, during the sessions. This would give the Permanent Forum members more time to discuss the important content of the proposed recommendations that are on the table, rather than spending much valuable time word-smithing.

I understand that the recommendations I make here need further discussion. And that they contain imperfections. But I believe that the new members of the Forum, along with those of you will continue on this important work, would benefit with a bit more rationalization of the drafting process. I believe the members should be more than simply "collectors" of documents and ideas from others. I believe the members should play a more active role in debating the key issues, rather than scrambling to re-write the input of others.

I offer this only in the spirit of being helpful. I hope that it was.

Thank-you, Madame Chair