

CAPAJ Statement on  
Nomination of Candidates to GHRE  
Geneva, April 25th, 2007

Mr. Facilitator:

We are concerned about who is going to present Indigenous experts as candidates to the Group of Human Rights Experts. Just to give an example, a lot of so-called underdeveloped countries only propose candidates who tow the line for or are militants of the political party in the power.

In this context, if the request is made on an internal level, Indigenous experts will be excluded, because the political parties only allow certain classes of society to participate in foreign relations, traditionally only party loyalists. They try to keep Indigenous wisdom permanently hidden, as it could cast them in a bad light. Therefore they impose unreachable requirements on Indigenous experts.

It is true that resolution 251/60 calls for the inclusion of diverse civilisations and cultures in all human rights processes. Under this principle, the states should be willing to trust experts who might not necessarily belong to their own culture, but who belong to cultures that coexist within their state. In other words, they would have to modernize their internal mechanisms.

We appreciate the state of the distinguished delegate from Cuba, Professor Miguel Alfonzo Martinez, who defends states' sovereignty in this matter. This would presuppose an ideal scenario in which the states that govern Indigenous peoples included them appropriately in their constitutions. I firmly believe that Dr. Martinez also wishes for such a situation to become reality. We also appreciate the willingness of his delegation create a mechanism that allows equality for the different actors with respect to the right to propose candidates.

Thank you, Mr. Facilitator

Tomas Alarcon  
CAPAJ