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✓ BRAZIL

REPORT

OPEN-ENDED INTER-SESSIONAL AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON A
PERMANENT FORUM FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
(GENEVA, 15 - 19 FEBRUARY 1999)

TO THE SECRETARIAT TO BE INCLUDED ON THE FINAL
REPORT, WHICH TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE PREVIOUS REPORTS OF THE
WORKING GROUP OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION COULD REPEAT THE
AGREED LANGUAGE: "THIS REPORT IS SOLELY A RECORD OF THE DEBATE
AND DOES NOT IMPLY ACCEPTANCE OF THE USAGE OF EITHER THE
EXPRESSION "INDIGENOUS PEOPLES" OR "INDIGENOUS PEOPLE". IN THIS
REPORT BOTH TERMS ARE USED WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE POSITIONS
OF PARTICULAR DELEGATIONS, WHERE DIVERGENCES OF APPROACH
REMAIN".

WGPF 99 GOV/SAM.BRA/1

COMMENTS OF THE DELEGATION OF BRAZIL ON THE ITEM
AGENDA 4 (PROPOSALS FOR THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
PERMANENT FORUM FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE):

"BRAZIL IS WILLING TO CONSIDER POSITIVELY ANY PROPOSALS FOR
IMPROVED PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN THE WORK OF THE
UNITED NATIONS.

BRAZIL WAS ONE OF THE CO-SPONSORS OF THE RESOLUTIONS
ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS
PEOPLE, PROPOSED BY DENMARK AT THE 53RD SESSION OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY. THIS REFLECTS BRAZIL'S COMMITMENT TO CONTRIBUTE TO
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES AND OBJETIVES
OF THE DECADE, AS WELL AS TO THE PROMOTION OF THE INDIGENOUS
PEOPLE.

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BRAZIL RECOGNIZES THAT THE PRESENT DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT FORUM IS TIMELY TO BETTER FOCUS THE DISCUSSION. THE BRAZILIAN DELEGATION IS READY TO CONSIDER THE CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS PUT FORWARD IN THIS WORKING GROUP, IN THE LIGHT OF THE SG'S REFORM TOWARDS MORE EFFICIENCY AND RATIONALIZATION.

BRAZIL ACKNOWLEDGES THE MEANINGFUL WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE WGIP, BOTH IN TERMS OF STANDARD-SETTING AND IN REVIEWING DEVELOPMENTS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE WORTHY EXPERIENCE OF THE WGIP AND ITS FLEXIBLE RULES OF PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE PROGRESS WE ARE ENGAGED IN. BRAZIL, THEREFORE, CONSIDERS THAT IN THE REALM OF POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS, ONE MIGHT BE FOUND IN THE REVIEWING OF THE MANDATE OF THE WGIP IN ORDER TO INCLUDE DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, CULTURE, EDUCATION. WE HAVE ALSO CONSIDERED INCREASING THE NUMBER OF EXPERTS, SOME OF THEM WHO COULD ^{be} APPOINTED BY INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT, IN ANY SOLUTION ENVISAGED, GOVERNMENTS MAINTAIN THEIR PRIME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROMOTION OF INITIATIVES SET FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE. I SHOULD HOWEVER STATE OUR POSITION IN THIS REGARD, THAT IS, THE IMPORTANCE BRAZIL ATTACHES TO THE FACT THAT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND NATIONAL INDIGENOUS GROUPS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE CHANNLED THROUGH GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTATIVES."