

Intervention of Mr. Leonard Imbiri, Secretary General of Papua Customary Council, 19/05/05, #3(3), 12

UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM
ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES



New York, May 19, 2005

INTERVENTION ON

Item 3: Goal 2 of the Millennium Development Goal: "Achieve universal primary education", to be address under the thematic approaches of languages, cultural perspective and traditional knowledge.

Madam Chairperson, members, delegates, sisters and brothers,

My name is Leonard Imbiri. I am the Secretary General of Papua Customary Council for the 253 Papuan tribes.

We, indigenous people of Papua, are still being denied our basic human rights, to formal and informal education, and subsequently are continuously suffering the consequences of marginalization and subject to poverty because of the lack of cultural appropriate education.

In support of the Pacific Regional Caucus Recommendations (Brisbane, 26-28 April 2005) and with the support of Land Is Life

We request through this forum that UNESCO, UNDP, UNITAR, UNICEF, the World Bank and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Education to explore immediate effective support on the critical educational needs in line with the Recommendations made in the Forum of 2004:

1. Access to free education for Papua Indigenous peoples from preschool to adult education with a special emphasis on literacy.
2. Equal treatment, human and financial resources given to Papua Indigenous peoples for the study and promotion of indigenous languages, many of which are currently under extreme distress and close to extinction.
3. Financial support for indigenous people to establish and develop database as well as to develop culturally appropriate curriculum
4. Programs that make Papua indigenous peoples aware of benefits of educational institutions, and promote capacity building through grants and others financial support.

We thank you Madam Chairperson for hearing the voices of the Papua Indigenous Peoples.