



ITEM 6: FUTURE WORK OF THE FORUM

SECOND SESSION OF THE PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

MAY 2003, NEW YORK

**SUMMARY ON THE COLLECTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PACIFIC CAUCUS
ON FUTURE WORK OF THE FORUM**

PRESENTED BY LILIKALA KAME'ELEIHIWA <lilikala@hawaii.edu>

**This intervention is on behalf of the Pacific Caucus,
specifically on behalf of the following agreeing organizations:**

**Aotearoa [New Zealand]: Aotearoa Indigenous Rights Trust,
Australia: Foundation for Aboriginal and Island Research Action
[FAIRE], Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
[ATSIC], and Umilliko.
Hawai'i: Ka Lahui Hawai'i, Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian
Studies, Halau Ku Mana, Na Koa Ikaika o ka Lahui, Koani
Foundation, and Waikiki Hawaiian Civic Club
Maluku: the Alifuru Organization of Maluku,
Pacific: Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific [NFIP],
Rapa Nui [Easter Island]: Rapa Nui Parliament and Koro Hu'a Rapa
Nui,
West Papua: Dewan Adat Papua,
Alaska: Alaska Federation of Natives.**

Mr. Chair, Members of the Permanent Forum, Distinguished
Representatives, Indigenous brothers and sisters, aloha mai
kakou!

I am Lilikala Kame'eleihiwa and I am the director of the
Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies at the University of
Hawai'i at Mānoa, and I am speaking on behalf of the Pacific
Caucus. We of the Pacific thank you for your hard work on our
behalf. We thank you for making the focus of this forum
Indigenous Children and Youth, and for allowing our Indigenous

youth to make interventions. We hope that all delegations will seek the means to bring youth to the Permanent Forum every year and that they be given an opportunity to speak.

We also thank you for that wonderful document known as the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, because this declaration has brought much hope to the hearts of Indigenous Peoples everywhere. We ask that you continue to support the declaration because in its current wording Indigenous Peoples and States have spent years in it's crafting and their work should be respected. In all the areas for which we have heard heart wrenching interventions during this second Permanent Forum meeting, the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is very supportive and specific in its relief of our extremely serious challenges.

Therefore, we call for immediate adoption of the Declaration by all governments, as a sign of their support for basic human rights, as well as a "good faith" commitment to Indigenous peoples, and as a first step in the reparation of political differences between Natives and Colonizers. We also ask that a media service such as CSPAN be invited to provide simultaneous broadcast of the discussions and interventions of the Permanent Forum so that everyone in the world will understand the good work that is being done here.

It is time for the United Nations to stand up for the human rights of all peoples, including Indigenous Peoples. In the 21st century, it is outrageous and unacceptable that in so many instances, not only are our ancestral identities being made illegal, in campaigns of cultural genocide, but many more Indigenous peoples are dying from terrible health and living conditions. These core issues should be brought forth to the General Assembly. This heavy responsibility falls upon your shoulders, distinguished members of the Permanent Forum, but please note that your people stand behind you and will do whatever we can when you ask.

In order to support your good work, it would be helpful for us to have email reports from the Secretariat to all of those who have registered to attend the forum, and for this year's final report to include the email addresses of all those who have attended. In this way, we will be better prepared to present at next year's Permanent Forum meeting. We also would like to help by posting regional interventions on websites for all to read.

In closing, we call for the UN to continue attention to the issues of Indigenous Peoples through the recognition of another Decade, or specific years dedicated to issues such as Indigenous Health, Culture, Education, etc, because in the past ten years, few governments have changed their inhumane behavior

towards Indigenous Peoples. Again we call for governments to immediately adopt the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. And in the case of my homeland, we humbly ask for your support for the reinscription of Hawai'i on the UN List of Decolonizing Nations. Thank you for your consideration.