

# PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS

2003  
CIP  
ARGUES  
ISSUES

2<sup>ND</sup> Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
Item 6 – Future Work of the Forum  
Thursday 22 May 2003

## MAJORITY CAUCUS STATEMENT

The majority of the Indigenous Caucus is supporting the theme – **The Right to Self-determination – for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2004.**

**Self-determination is the underlying principle that encompasses all aspects of decision making for all issues that are vital for the recognition, protection and survival of Indigenous Peoples. The non-recognition and application of self-determination can the difference between peace and conflict as it affects the Indigenous women children elders and men. Self-determination is a matter of critical urgency for those that are victims of militarization and violence. In this context we firmly believe that a full discussion of the right to self-determination would move the process in the deliberation of the Working Group on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We therefore recommend the theme “The Right to Self-determination” for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2004.**

For information of the Permanent Forum other recommendations included:

**Indigenous Women (Supported by the Indigenous Women’s Caucus)**

**Peace and Conflict**

**Militarization**

**Presented by Ambassador Ronald Barnes**