



## SOVEREIGN DINEH NATION

Second Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
United Nations, New York, 22, May 2003  
Agenda Item 6: FUTURE WORK PLAN OF THE  
PERMANENT FORUM

Honorable Chairman and distinguished Members of the Permanent Forum, we wish to thank you for allowing Sovereign Dineh Nation and Haudenosaunee Ska-Roh-Reh Ambassador to United Nations Douglas S. Anderson to take the floor today on an issue that is integral to the Indigenous peoples. In principle the United States Constitution, United Nations treaties regarding human rights and the environment and other international law based on principles of equality, justice and the rights of people protect everyone regardless of race, gender, religion and based both on the individual and collective basis. However, it means nothing to have such rights recognized by law, if these rights are systematically and egregiously violated.

There have been many eloquent testimonies presented here. Many common problems that indigenous peoples throughout the world are facing including loss of land rights, access to clean water, environmental and cultural destruction and desecration. As I am sure many of the people here agree, we would like ensure that these claims are heard and investigated. We are left with many questions including, what will happen to the participants after they leave this Forum? Are there any procedures to evaluate and move forward on the claims presented here? And where can we get further information on these claims?

Based on our discussions and conversations with individuals and groups associated with the PF, we are convinced that the Permanent Forum is and can be a powerful tool in achieving justice and equality for indigenous peoples. However, while the Permanent Forum has taken many great steps forward towards these goals, we believe it is necessary for the PF to establish formal complaint procedures. Furthermore, the Permanent Forum needs to establish formal protocol for documentation and record keeping. Therefore, we humbly submit the following motions for consideration. These motions are designed to maximize transparency, efficiency, public participation and the mainstreaming of indigenous issues in the United Nations system.

The First Motion is to establish a commission of independent scholars and legal specialists whose mandate is to identify and draft a model complaint procedure. This commission shall be empowered to contact different United Nations agencies such as the Human Rights Commission and other governmental agencies such as the International Court of Justice. This Commission should be required to issue a recommendation to the Permanent Forum on both procedural and substantive requirements necessary for drafting, comment and ratification of a model complaint procedure. We would like to take the liberty of asking the participants to raise their hands if they support this First Motion.

The Second Motion is to organize a system of record keeping and documentation. Such a system should take advantage of modern technology including electronic submissions and videography and the Internet. Therefore, we propose that the Permanent Forum establish a second commission to create a protocol for record keeping and documentation for the next session of the Permanent Forum to be evaluated by the general body. We would like to ask the participants to raise their hands if they support this Second Motion.

*Thank you,*