

Statement by Mr. Hjalmar Dahl

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**The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

**Fourth session, May 16 – 27, 2005**

**United Nations Headquarters, New York**

**Agenda item 5: Future Work**

**Joint intervention by the Saami Council and the Inuit Circumpolar Conference**

Thank you Mdm. Chairperson,

This is a joint intervention by the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and the Saami Council.

Mdm. Chairperson;

Allow us to draw your attention to interventions made at the three previous sessions of the Permanent Forum, where we have called on ECOSOC and the Permanent Forum to in joint efforts adopt rules of procedures that allow indigenous elected bodies – such as the Greenland Home Rule Parliament and the Saami Parliaments and others – to appear in their own capacity at the Permanent Forum sessions. Today, if these bodies want to participate in the Forum dialogue, they have to do so through the state delegations.

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference and the Saami Council firmly believes that, if the Permanent Forum should become a fora where indigenous peoples and states meet on an equal basis, to engage in true, fruitful and interactive dialogues – which we do think is the intention of the Forum – indigenous representative bodies must be allowed to participate in the Forum session in their own capacity. **We therefore again recommend that the Permanent Forum to investigate the possibility to adopt such Rules of Procedure.**

We further call on states within indigenous elected bodies arc situated to be supportive towards the representation of such bodies in the Permanent Forum and elsewhere in the UN system.

Mdm. Chairperson,

Turning to the future work at upcoming sessions of the Permanent Forum, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and the Saami Council would like to congratulate the Permanent Forum and its members on the large number of recommendations that the Forum very wisely have adopted at previous sessions. We find them all very helpful, and our organizations are committed to do whatever we can to assist the Forum in the follow-up on these recommendations in the UN system and elsewhere.

However, as the Forum starts to prepare for its second term with new elected members, we think that it is time and utmost important that the Forum starts to direct increased attention to the implementation of already adopted recommendations.

**We therefore recommend that the Permanent Forum set a side time to the agenda of the 5<sup>th</sup> session and focus, review and prioritize the implementation of previously adopted recommendations.**

Further, on the same line, as goals for the second decade, the Arctic Caucus supports that a mechanism is introduced that can produce a state of the world indigenous peoples report is prepared on a regular basis, perhaps every third year.

We further recommend that the Forum recommends the designation of focal points at the country level amongst UN agencies, funds and programmes with country offices, with the mandate to follow up on the implementation of recommendation of the Permanent Forum, and the objectives of the Second Decade.

We believe that this is imperative that the Forum addresses these issues, prior to the review of the Permanent Forum's operation next year, called for by the ECOSOC Resolution 2000/22. The review and implementation could possibly be done through identifying some cross-cutting issues for discussion, and should include the highest possible involvement of the UN agencies. In line with the just mentioned;

**The Inuit Circumpolar Conference and the Saami Council further recommend that the Permanent Forum adopts a more long term work plan that stretches over a couple of years, possibly three, in order to enhance the effectiveness of its work.**

**Furthermore, we want to recommend that the Permanent Forum sets a deadline for submissions of written statements, so that the statements could be reviewed and assessed by the members and the bureau prior a session so recommendations already could be prioritized.**

We believe that the work of the Permanent Forum could be enhanced that way and then be more effective.

Finally, the Arctic Caucus welcomes the establishment of the Voluntary Fund of the Decade under the Permanent Forum, and calls on all governments and private sector to contribute generously to the Fund. We further support as a goal of the Decade that all funds in the UN system relating to indigenous peoples are merged into one single Indigenous Fund under the auspices of the Permanent Forum, to enhance efficiency and decrease overhead.

Thank you Mdm. Chairperson.