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*UNPFII, 4thSession:
Intervention on Item 5: Future work of the Forum*

Statement by Kumar Yonjon Tamang
On behalf of 'the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the
Tropical Forests'

Madam Chair,

On behalf of "the International Alliance of Indigenous Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests,

We would like to share with you, and with all our brothers and sisters, a recommendation regarding the future work of the Permanent Forum. We are presenting this statement on behalf of the undersigned indigenous organizations, as the recommendation concerns a point of significant interest to us all.

We have grave concerns regarding the application of existing international standards regarding the rights of indigenous peoples in other areas of the UN's work. These concerns have grown during our experience in the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) over the past week;

We appreciate the importance placed on addressing the concerns of Indigenous Peoples shown in the General Assembly proclamation of a Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples under the theme 'Partnership in Action';

However we also recognize that standards on the rights of indigenous peoples are poorly understood and rarely implemented even within the agencies of the United Nations;

Madam Chair,

The mandate of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is to coordinate work between United Nations agencies working on issues relevant to indigenous peoples, and our experience with the UNFF over the past week has shown this role is sorely needed;

Specific to the UNFF Sessions taking place in this building, we strongly recommend that the UNPFII provide greater coordination and guidance and make recommendations to the future international arrangement on forests;

In particular the UNPFII should be an active participant in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, an advisory body within the international arrangement on forests responsible for assisting the implementation of forest plans of action;

Without the presence of indigenous peoples on the body, recognition of rights to land and territories, tenure, resources, and other concerns of indigenous peoples in forest policy will not be addressed and therefore we are recommending that 'land, territories, resources and tenure' become a fixed agenda item of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues;

Without the presence of the UNPFII we believe that the international arrangement on forests will work to undermine the achievements of indigenous peoples in international standards on rights.

Lastly, Madam Chair,

WE urge UNPFII to organize expert workshop on "Land, Territories and Development and Traditional Knowledge" in Future.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson for your attention.