

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Fifty-fifth session

Open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc working group
on a permanent forum for indigenous people

Geneva, 15 - 19 February 1999

The United Nations body to which the proposed forum would report

The working group held one formal meeting on the questions related to which United Nations body the proposed forum would report to. The Chairman-Rapporteur encouraged the participants to consider whether it would be acceptable to establish the permanent forum, in one way or another, around the Economic and Social Council. He summarized the debate as follows:

The Chairman-Rapporteur noted that out of the debate emerged the notion that the permanent forum should be linked in one way or another to the Economic and Social Council, taking into account the responsibilities and views of other bodies and organs. This would not prevent the permanent forum to report to other higher or lower United Nations bodies or organs. Whether this would have to be directly or indirectly was as yet undecided.

He stated that the views expressed in the working group do not constitute a formal position but rather a point of departure for future work. However, the exact placement of the permanent forum within the United Nations will have to be decided on the basis of the final outcome of the discussion on the mandate.