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Item 12: Follow up to World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, statement by Ashur Sargon Eskrya  
Assyrian Aid Society President

Madam Chair,

One of the important issues for indigenous peoples is the relation with governments, so the follow up to World Conference on Indigenous peoples requires to take in consideration government constitutions, and governments agenda or plan of working with Indigenous peoples.

As the Assyrians have been suffering increasingly in the last years and lost their population, culture, heritage and lands.

The Assyrians suffer from lands grabs (mostly can be solved with the local government), education system for basic and secondary schools needs more support from the governments. so, all the cases are connected to government agenda, and this report showing a lot of Follow up to World Conference on Indigenous.

The Assyrians as indigenous people of Iraq have representatives in the Iraqi parliament 5 seats, and 5 seats for the Assyrians in KRG parliament. But, this type of representation was attacked or manipulated by some Assyrians who follow political parties for Sunni or Shia and Kurds who try to win the Assyrian seats in parliament to have more power in the regions.

Representation of indigenous people should take part on all positions within Iraqi parliament, or with local governments like mayor or other position in different levels.

To make sure that the Iraqi government or other governments accept to work together with Indigenous peoples to solve all the cases of their nations.

Recommendations:

We recommend the following to be implemented by UNPFII in coordination between Iraqi government and Assyrians NGOs and representatives:

- 1- Providing support to Governments and State actors for the development and implementation of legal frameworks, policies, strategies or plans to achieve the ends of the Declaration;
- 2- Providing support to indigenous peoples to strengthen their participation in the development, implementation and monitoring of national legal frameworks, policies, strategies and plans to achieve the ends of the Declaration;
- 3- Promoting the participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations forums as well as consultations with indigenous peoples on United Nations initiatives;
- 4- Collecting, disaggregating and disseminating statistics on indigenous peoples;
- 5- Implementing capacity-building for United Nations staff with regard to the Declaration and disseminating, and conducting training on, the United Nations Development Group Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues.

Ashur Sargon Eskrya  
Assyrian Aid Society Iraq President