

Aloha,

One of the most significant, substantive summits at the United Nations will be taking place in a bit over a year. The UN Summit of the Future will frame a path forward for all peoples on the planet. In September 2023, as proposed by the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and Our Common Agenda, the Summit of the Future will be a major event and we must ensure the values, voice and vision of indigenous peoples must be at the core of the global conversation.

The Summit of the Future has the potential to be one of the most compelling conferences and subsequent campaigns since the 2030 Agenda. The Summit of the Future will be forward looking providing possible alternative futures with a vision of essential elements for our desired earth democracy. The Summit of the Future aspires to paint possible visions of transformation rooted in our collective imagination for humanity and our international community.

Therefore, we believe the EMRIP should do a thematic study on Indigenous Visions for the Summit of the Future covering the the commitment to renew global governance and fearlessly face the collective moral and practice imperatives of our time. We believe an EMRIP study could build a bold body of wisdom for the world.

Some areas that could be addressed in the study of the Summit of the Future is the New Agenda for Peace, a Declaration on Future Generations along with potential protocols for an Emergency Platform. Another main area to mobilize our minds around is a Pact for the Future.

One of the interesting ideas being considered that indigenous peoples have insight to initiate is an agreement on moving beyond gross domestic product as a measure of progress.

If the Future of the Summit will be a major contribution to the global human rights movement will depend on indigenous long-term thinking and transformative cosmology being input into our global systems with a commitment to risk anticipation and foresight centered around the interests of the future generations as a guiding principle in public policy.

Another relative and related study could focus on followup of the Our Common Agenda Report with an indigenous lens. Our Common Agenda calls for a New Global Deal. Also, Our Common Agenda understands the urgency for achieving the UN SDGs as we approach the halfway point as we are deep in the Decade of Action. Another significant component is concentrating on gender equality and inclusion of young people. We could offer the two agenda items on VAW and development impacts as a basis for this part of the study. Indigenous peoples always discuss at least seven generations and therefore can provide positive insights on a proposal for establishment of an Office on Youth in the UN Secretariat.

While the world has important issues and indigenous peoples can greatly contribute to global priorities, there are some substantive future thematic studies important to indigenous peoples around the planet.

One thematic study could be on indigenous peoples and relationship to water. Many indigenous peoples are water protectors around the world. Also, indigenous peoples face severe situations of the right to water being violated by multiple actors. In Hawai'i, Kapukaki provides clean water yet faces threat of Navy fuel storage facility. We know many indigenous peoples face concerns too. Therefore a thematic study on water would be important and imminent to many initiatives indigenous peoples are leading.

One thematic study could be on respect for burial grounds and honoring spiritual relationship with ancestors. In Hawaii and around Asia-Pacific, there are many cases where states are not actualizing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

One final thematic study necessary for indigenous peoples to provide insight to the international discussion is Deep Sea Bed Mining. It is quite necessary with the intensification of the issue for Deep Sea Bed Mining with global decisions coming in the International Seabed Authority. The Pacific would appreciate a Human Rights Approach to Deep Sea Bed Mining. Oceania is our sacred space to honor. However, many actors are viewing our ocean floor as the next frontier and another rush for natural resources.

Maluhia Me Ka Pono