Oral statement pronounced by:
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BANGSA ADAT ALIFURU

Distinguish
Mr. Chair,
Members of the Working Group,
Indigenous brothers and sisters,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

From Maluku the ancestral grounds of the Alifurus and through me as an Anai Alifuru I have the honour to bring you warm fraternal greetings of my people the indigenous Alifuru people and salute you with our traditional national greetings....

MES NA!

The Alifurus are a people with their own rich traditional customary law and a governing system that dated back since time immemorial. The traditional customary law, called the adat istiadat, regulates, provides and protects. The cultural heritage is the core in the existence of the Alifurus. The adat not only regulates but also guarantees the internal bonding of the Alifurus and the identity of every one of them not only as an individual but also as a people. To the Alifurus adat means more than only unwritten rules, it means the conduct of and attitude to life. Equally important is also the relation of the indigenous Alifuru to their land. The Alifuru people believe that the land is a right given to them by God (Upu Lanite). In this right lies the unity as an individual, family, tribe, and village community with the land. In the adat lies not only their origin, their birth grounds, and their rights but also their obligations.

The adat istiadat or traditional customary law is the basis for a balanced existence within the Alifurus but especially also the harmony between the Alifuru and his alam. Alam is his immediate surroundings, the environment, the nature and everything that surrounds his being.

The cultural heritage of the Alifurus is predominantly through oral transmission. The kepatas or traditional songs would transmit the history of the Alifuru, accompanied only by the tifa, a traditional drum that symbolizes the beating of the heart of Mother
ALIFURU

History in a Nutmeg shell

of the indigenous ALIFURU people from MALUKU

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Maiuku
The Indigenous ALIFURU people are the original inhabitants of MALUKU, the Moluccan islands. The Maluku archipelago consists of 999 islands and is situated between the Philippines, Australia, East Timor and West Papua.
The largest Moluccan islands are Halmahera, Ceram and Buru, followed by the smaller islands of Ternate, Ambon, Kei, Aru and Tanimbar. Furthermore there are numerous smaller islands and atolls, some inhabited others uninhabited.

The Alifuru people
Language, appearance and culture of the Alifuru people bear similarities to the peoples of the Pacific. The Alifurus like the Papuans and the Aboriginals from Australia belong to the Melanesian race. Characteristics of the Melanesians are: brown to dark brown skin color, curly to coarse hair and flat nose. While their language and culture are close to the natives of New Zealand (Maori's), Hawaii, Samoa etc.

The ALIFURUS are semi nomadic tribes people that lived of hunting, fishing and the cultivation of spices. There are two main tribal divisions, the Pata SIWA and the Pata LIMA. Before invaded by western colonialists merchants from China and Arabia came to Maluku to trade for the spices. The legendary name of "Spice Islands" for Maluku dated from that time.
The most famous spices are: nutmeg, cloves, cinnamon and pepper. The main or traditional food of the ALIFURUS is the sago that is derived from the sago tree. From the sago tree comes also the sageru that is brewed into an alcoholic drink.

The Alifuru people lived from hunting, fishing and cultivation of spices. The most famous spices from Maluku are nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves and pepper. Before invaded by western colonialism, merchants from China and Arabia came to Maluku to trade for the spices. Our legendary name of "the Spice Islands" originated from that time.
The Adat
The cultural heritage is the core in the existence of the ALIFURUS, and the adat, traditional law, the core of the cultural heritage.
The adat not only regulates but also guarantees the internal bonding of the ALIFURUS and the identity of each of them not only as an individual but also as a people.
To the ALIFURU adat means more than only unwritten rules. It means the conduct of and attitude to life.
The strength of such an internal binding is expressed in the so-called 'Pela'.

Pela is a relationship or brotherhood that existed (from time immemorial) and still exists today between two or more village communities.
The norms and values in the Pela relationship rule the conduct of the ALIFURU towards one and another.
Mutual assistance is an obligation and the Pela must display correct behaviour towards one another.
The forbidden inter-marriage could be regarded as one of the most important norms in the Pela relationship.

Equally important as the mutual binding is also the relation of the indigenous Alifuru to their land.
The Alifuru people believe that the land is a right given to them by God (Upu Lanîte). In this right lies the unity as an individual, family, tribe, village community with the land. This is their origin, their birth grounds.

The "adat" or traditional law is the basis for a balanced existence within the Alifurus, but especially also the harmony between the indigenous Alifuru and their environment the nature.

Pata Siwa, Pata Lima
In Maluku all believe that every Maluccan originated from the main island of Ceram.
Ceram is divided into two regions, the Alune and the Wemale and in two languages with the same names.
The Alune is considered from the Pata SiWA division, while Wemale is from the Pata LlMA division.
Every island and/or region in Maluku acknowledge that they belong to either the Pata SiWA or the Pata LIMA division.

According to some study it is revealed that Maluku has over 130 dialects derived from the Alune and Wemale languages. Of those 129 are living dialects and at least 3 are extinct.
The lingua franca is the Melaju Pasar, a Malay Polynesian language mix.
This language is imposed by the Dutch colonialism as the one and only language to communicate with.

With the formation of the artificial entity of Indonesia in 1950 also a new language has been created and called Bahasa Indonesia, a language that is almost totally derived from the Melaju Pasar.
Republiek Maluku Selatan

In the 15th century western colonial powers came to the Moluccas and fought each other for control of the Spice Islands. After England, Spain and Portugal Holland finally own and colonized Maluku since 1599.

On December 27, 1949, after 350 years of colonialism the Dutch Government transferred the sovereignty to the United States of Indonesia, a federation of 16 states. However, shortly hereafter one of the 16 federal states, namely the Java based Republic of Indonesia under Sukarno, started to abolish the Federation by force.

Aware of the imminent danger and conscious of Sukarno’s urge for expansionism the Moluccan people demanded from their governing council to take immediate steps to safeguard their Freedom and Right of Self Determination. And so on April 25, 1950, the Republic of South Moluccas was proclaimed conform the international Agreements that were signed between the Dutch Government and all parties concerned and to which also the United Nations were co-signatories.

The Government of the Republic of South Moluccas governed without any disturbance the Country. Our Constitution was decided upon.

On August 17, 1950, approximately more than 4 months after the Moluccan Declaration of Independence, Sukarno proclaimed the Unitarian State of Indonesia.

And on September 3rd the Indonesians troops came to aggress and invade the Republic of South Moluccas. For more than ten years the Moluccan people fought an open armed struggle against Indonesia.

Due to lack of international attention, medicine and weapons we were forced to change into guerilla warfare and underground movements since 1960.

Indonesia conquered large parts of the Moluccas and put them under Indonesian military occupation.

Until this day the Republic of South Moluccas is under military occupation by Indonesia.

Present Situation

- Javanization they teached us the AlifUru people to think, act and behave like a Javanese.
- Transmigration by thousands poor Javanese people had been brought over from Java to the Moluccas.
- Thousands of Jihad warriors from outside Maluku were brought into our country (from 1999 until now this proces is still going on) backed up by thousands of Indonesians soldiers heavily armed, they killed the AlifUru people and destroyed and robbed their belongings.
- Ecological disaster is at hand in Maluku. Multinational companies in cooperating with Indonesias government cut the trees of our forest, hundreds of acres of forest disapeared. Our forests which exist for thousands of years must take place for their sawahs (rice fields). Indonesia also sold our sea to other countries (Japan, Taiwan), with their trawlers they robbed our sea and destroyed the ecological balance. Dutch scientists in cooperating with some Indonesians universities and funded by the Dutch government already make a study whether the Banda sea can be used to dump nuclear waste.