



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
GENEVA

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15 July 2010

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to express our disappointment with regard to a statement made by an NGO during the Third session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Although the session focused on the study on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making as well as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the representative of "Assemblées des Arméniens d'Arménie Occidentale", in his statement, chose to use this forum for ill-founded allegations once again which are irrelevant with the scope of the work of the expert Mechanism. Genocide is a legal term whose definition is enshrined in the 1948 Convention. Thus the term "genocide" used in the abovementioned NGO's statement runs contrary to the definition provided within the Convention.

Furthermore, I would like to reiterate our well-known position with regard to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which Turkey voted in favor in General Assembly in 2007.

"The Declaration is non-legally binding. However, it can constitute an important policy tool for those states that recognize indigenous peoples within their national territories.

Turkey does not have any group within its territories that fall within the scope of indigenous peoples to which the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples applies.

Turkey would like to emphasize that, as stated in Article 46/1 of the Declaration, nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, people, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act contrary to the Charter of the United Nations or construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States."

Mr. José Carlos Morales Morales

President

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



We recall that the above-mentioned NGO, who do not hold ECOSOC consultative status has aspersed similarly during the second session of the Forum. In this vein, we kindly request from you to circulate and publish this letter among other statements made during the Forum and also take into consideration the following points in the case that this NGO applies for accreditation in future Forums:

- This NGO does not provide any thematic contribution to this august body,
- It does not represent an indigenous group,
- It insists to dilute the agenda of the Forum by bringing baseless allegations.

Please accept Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration,

Ashgül Üğdül

Deputy Permanent Representative

Chargé d'Affaires a. i.