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United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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STATEMENT by the PASSIONIST INTERNATIONAL

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Implementation of the Six Mandated Areas of the Permanent Forum in Relation to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Mr/Madam Chair, the Passionist International would like to congratulate the Forum for making the follow-ups in the identified mandated areas relating to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and based on the experiences of our organization please allow us to make the following observation on these areas particularly in relation to economic and social development, the indigenous peoples communities that we are working with in Sarangani Province, south of the Philippines continue to suffer persistent poverty and lack of economic opportunities to uplift their socio-economic condition.

Art. 21 of the UN Declaration states that “indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social condition, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security”. Towards this end, the State shall take effective measures, and where appropriate, special measures to ensure the continuing improvement of the economic and social conditions of indigenous peoples.

To implement this mandate of the UN Declaration, the Forum may wish to recommend to States to give particular attention to these special measures to uplift the economic and social development of indigenous peoples and prioritize them among all other measures that they will undertake in order that this will lead to real improvement in the socio-economic condition of indigenous peoples.

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