I have travelled from my ancestral lands where we are currently occupying stolen land. We submit our statement for your consideration.

Madam Chair, our brief relates to breaches of the UNDRIP from the confiscation of some 900 acres of land belonging to Māori at Ihumātao by The British Crown in 1863. The land in question is of high cultural, archaeological and historical significance as a key source of mana whenua identity, cultural and spiritual grounding and attachment.

Our issue concerns a block of land known as Puketapapa, that lies within the wider confiscation area that was sold. The Puketapapa block includes ancestral burial caves, sections of the ancestral volcanic cones and pre-colonial stonewalls that are significant to our cultural identity.

The further application of development-oriented provisions of contemporary legislation have undermined the relationship of mana whenua and Puketapapa in favour of the current plans for the commercial development of the land.

Despite the strenuous opposition of mana whenua, descendents of the colonist landowners have used the profoundly pro-development provisions of the Special Housing Area Act 2013 to have Puketapapa designated for urban development in 2014. The Act fast tracks development of land for building of houses, minimising the rights of indigenous peoples to object, negotiate or disrupt any development proposed under its provisions.

In December 2016 Puketapapa was sold to a transnational corporation, Fletcher Residential Ltd. Fletcher has approval to build 480 high cost houses on the site, obliterating all of the values and significance referred to above. The SHA is a key breach of the UNDRIP in that it contravenes Articles 10, 25 and 26 in particular with significant impact also via Articles 27 and 28 as well.

We exercise our right to resist and oppose this SHA development.

Recommendations:

- We call on the Permanent forum to reaffirm our rights to self-determination and status as tangata whenua to our lands. Including the requirement of our free prior and informed consent.

- We ask that the Permanent forum request that the NZ Government withdraw the SHA legislation, and that the Auckland Council revoke its support for SHA62.