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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
May 16-26 2005

CISA-Indian Council of South America
Aymara Alliance

On the Provisional Agenda for 5th Session by Jorge Gomez

Dear representatives and honorable chairperson, CISA has stated the following in regards to the semantics of the name assigned to this forum. The name "Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues" devalues the importance of this forum. Even more so name of this forum in the Spanish language "Foro Permanente Sobre las Cuestiones Indigenas." The word 'cuestiones' in Spanish translates to either something 'controversial,' something 'with an unsure outcome,' or to something of 'uncertain meaning. The use of the word 'cuestiones' denigrates the value and the spirit intended by this forum and neither the English nor the Spanish version of the name show a commitment by the United Nations. We indigenous people, by modest accounts are at least over 300 million and in truth are probably many more and we are present in all of the continents for this reason and many others we indigenous people deserve a forum that does not mean to paternalize us and which gives us rhetoric that does not compromise. The appropriate name for this forum in English is the following: "Permanent Forum of Indigenous People" and the appropriate name for this forum in the Spanish language is "Foro Permanente de los Pueblos Indigenas" The change in name for this forum would in no way detract from its previous improvements rather it would be of paramount importance in the fruitful advancement of this forum.

Further, I ask the international community to keep an eye on the ongoing problems in Bolivia so that no further human rights violations occur. Day by day, hour by hour the situation becomes more dreadful. The dire situation of the country of Bolivia, one of the poorest countries in the hemisphere is not due to one single event, it is due to over 500 years of colonialism.

Thank you for your support.