



26 | 05 | 05 #6, 285

Joshua Cooper  
Hawaii Institute for Human Rights

Madam Chair

This intervention is a brief summary of an annual luncheon meeting that takes place at the UN Quaker House on behalf of Kenneth Deer who chaired the discussion focusing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Decade on Indigenous Peoples.

Unfortunately Kenneth Deer has returned to his community and asked for me to share the results of the Quaker Meeting with the UN PFII located here on Mohawk Island.

The meeting brought together all of the regions represented in the UN PFII.

In the interest of time, I will summarize the main conclusions:

- 1) Support for the creation of a UN Ambassador to champion the decade at the United Nations and in the regions of the world. This position will only be effective if there is sufficient funds allowing for active participation throughout the decade. Indigenous peoples also note regional indigenous representatives to assist in the work of the Ambassador would be essential.
- 2) Support the creation of mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the priorities of the decade with sufficient indigenous representation. One suggestion was to link that with the annual meeting of the assessment of the Voluntary Fund by adding two days.
- 3) Support the measure to include cross-cutting themes for each year of the decade to allow peoples to focus on specific issues that are vital to indigenous communities
- 4) Urge all states to increase their contribution to the UN Voluntary Fund. For some states that won't be difficult because they haven't contributed a single dollar in the past decade. Also, suggest for private corporations to provide financial assistance for the decade.
- 5) Urge the creation of indigenous committees for national monitoring of the events of the decade. When some indigenous representatives were asked what they desired for the second decade answered "we didn't know we had a first." Therefore, we insist more resources to contribute to local communities. There must be local and national committees of indigenous peoples in the second decade to take the global work to the grassroots level. The role of UN national committees would also be helpful.
- 6) Support the continuation as well as intensification of work with NGOs to promote the second decade in the international human rights community.

- 7) Support an international summit focusing on indigenous peoples
- 8) Support the increased participation of indigenous peoples in the UN and regional human rights systems through capacity building workshops and trainings that provide skills and strategies in global advocacy

Kenneth Deer concluded, indigenous peoples must take possession and ownership of the decade with support of the UN resources and staff.

“We should take possession of the decade at all levels and get what we want to push it as long and as far as we can.”