

23/2/2000 PM

Permanent Forum Session of the U.N. Working Group for Indigenous Populations

INTERVENTION OF  
NA KOA IKAIKA O KA LAHUI HAWAI'I

Topic: Elements of Permanent Forum Agenda Item: Rev. 2.

Presenter: Mililani B. Trask

Objections to Chair Paper Rev. 2

Request for changes: inclusions

Title: use of term Indigenous Peoples

Chair

1. The report does not reflect the debate on the title "Permanent Forum ~~for~~ for Indigenous Peoples." All indigenous peoples & several states agreed to this. This language was in the Concensus Consensus Paper CRP 1. A minority of states requested the use of indigenous issues.

Mandate

2. There is consensus on a "broad mandate" for the forum to address "all indigenous issues". The terms "broad" and "all" have been removed. This narrows the mandate to some unidentified issues. Given the fact that the chair deleted specific language on the mandate relating to "structural setting" "civil, political, social economic, health" etc. The net result is that there will be no issues relating to Human Rights addressed by the forum. The chair then allowed a lengthy 45 minute discussion on the re-adoption of the WGEPP — on a matter not on the agenda and not within the mandate of this body. We request that the term "broad mandate" be included and that "all issues" be addressed.

Na Koa Ikaika o Ka Lahui Hawai'i  
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Re: la Mandate:

3. The forum should provide technical assistance, expert advice and make recommendations to the UN system, its parent body and "indigenous peoples organizations, indigenous governments and indigenous NGOs."

4. The Indigenous Caucus does not support a 30 member body. A consensus document was presented to the chair which set forth the Resolutions and allocation of the Indigenous world. It is attached as Exhibit A. The date should be included in the Report verbatim. The Ind. Caucus supports a body of 34 members.

5. Meetings. One proposal supported by Malaysia and others is to have 2 meetings per year. 1 in Geneva and 1 in New York with Human rights addressed in Geneva and other matters in New York.

6. Funding: The report should reflect that UN agency funds not be utilized for the funding <sup>of the forum</sup>. These funds are badly needed by UN agencies for projects for indigenous that the UN system has agreed to implement in the Program of action for the Decade.

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### 7. Rules / Decision making:

*critical*  
The paper does not have any procedures for decision making. This is a critical flaw in the document. Without some procedure for decision making the forum will not be able to adopt rules, or even approve its first agenda. We request that the report reflect that decisions of the P.F. be taken by majority vote but that consensus is the preferable method for decision making. ~~This~~ This matter was presented in the 1st draft of the chair report: in CRP 1.

8. The section on Alternative proposals does not reflect the serious concerns of indigenous peoples on the Spain proposal CRP #5. These concerns are the following:

1. Some States do not recognize the indigenous peoples residing within their territories
2. Some States are currently involved in armed struggle with the indigenous peoples residing in their territories.
3. In these instances the States would not accredit the representation of indigenous peoples

As a technical matter it should be noted that States do not accredit representatives in the UN System. The UN has rules for accreditation which states: indigenous abide by.

Exhibit A

**Geographical Divisions & Number of Representatives**

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| North America                  | 2        |
| Central America                | 2        |
| South America                  | 2        |
| North Africa                   | 1        |
| Western & Central Africa       | 1        |
| Eastern & Southern Africa      | 1        |
| Western Europe                 | 1        |
| Russia CIS - Former USSR       | 2        |
| Pacific                        | 2        |
| South Asia (SAARC)             | 1        |
| South-East Asia (ASEAN)        | 1        |
| <u>East Asia</u>               | <u>1</u> |
| Total Regional Representatives | = 17     |

12 Regions