



## Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation

Asia – Australia – Europe – North America

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**United Nations  
Future Work of the Forum  
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
Third Session  
May 10-21, 2004**

**Statement of Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation  
AGENDA ITEM 5: Future Work of the Forum  
Speaker: Thach Dhammo**

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates:

The Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation and its people are very appreciative for the great opportunity to be part of the forum this year. There have been many excellent speeches and oral interventions throughout the week from all quarters of the forum. Many excellent recommendations have been raised on indigenous women and on the six mandate areas.

As the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Annan has highlighted in his opening remark: *the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People – have been marked by many striking achievements for indigenous peoples at the United Nations, not least of which is the creation of this Forum.*

*Despite those gains, the aspiration of the indigenous peoples have been ignored; their lands have been taken; their cultures denigrated or directly attacked; their languages and customs suppressed; their wisdom and traditional knowledge overlooked; and their sustainable ways of developing natural resources dismissed. Some have even faced the threat of extinction. They continue to suffer from prejudice and ill-will. In many cases they are trapped in the middle of conflicts, conscripted into armed forces, faced with summary executions and relocated from their lands. They are subject to extreme poverty, disease, environmental destruction and sometimes permanent displacement."*

*Stressing that such grave threats must be confronted without delay to keep them from festering and deepening, he said.*

Fortunately, the United Nations is ready to confront problems that the indigenous people are facing, so do the Member States. The Permanent Forum needs more resources as well as active support from pertinent UN agencies including the UN Security Council to promote peace and harmony in between the indigenous people and the dominant groups in the society. This forum should be more involved in the world affairs on behalf of the

indigenous people than just providing opinions to the ECOSOC. **This forum should have real ability to safeguard the indigenous people's rights, and also to promote their culture and identity.**

With this opportunity the *Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation* and would like to suggest the following recommendations toward the future work of the forum:

1. Have the UN provide more resources for the *forum* to establish necessary institutions, programs and mechanism to monitor and report on the implementation of forum recommendations, and to enable the indigenous people's participation and feedback on the *implementation of the UN mandate areas* and other issues that are important to them.
2. To request the ECOSOC and Security Council as well as Member States to timely response to the appeal of the forum on *matter that is significant to peace and security* and when human rights of indigenous people are at risks.
3. To create contact information of all IPO, NGO, and UN agencies.
4. To provide training and support for *indigenous organizations* on how to develop and implement the indigenous media including Newspapers, Radio, TV and Internet in their community.
5. To devote major efforts on the *indigenous people's census, data collection and statistics, etc* to be part of the Secretariat's responsibility as important as one of the six mandate areas.
6. To Create the *University of the Indigenous People* that has many branches around the world.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Members.