



الجمعية الاشورية الخيرية العراق

Assyrian Aid Society – Iraq

“NGO in Special Consultative Status with the UN ECOSOC since 2011”

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Submitted on Behalf of Assyrian Aid Society – Iraq

22 May 2014

13th Session - New York 12-23 May 2014

Item 9: Future Work

Delivered by: Mona Malik

Madame Chair, thank you for the opportunity to present in this Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Like many of our other Indigenous brothers and sisters, we did submit to speak under Item 4: Human Rights and were not able to present. Therefore, one of the future recommendations we suggest for the Forum to consider is allotting two days to this subject.

I quote Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s opening remarks “This Permanent Forum is a vital mechanism to ensure that the international community listens to the voices and concerns – the hopes and aspirations -- of indigenous peoples in **every corner of the world.**” In reference to this statement, I would like to bring the forum’s attention to the lack of representation from the Middle East, hence our struggle to be heard as part of a larger caucus. Our recommendation is that the forum review the agenda so that it is all inclusive of issues relevant to Indigenous Groups in all regions of the world, particularly so that research surrounding Indigenous Peoples in the Middle East is presented and discussed at the Forum in the future. On another issue of communication, we recommend that the forum provide mechanisms to encourage direct dialogue between Member States and the indigenous groups relevant to each respective State.

Finally, I would like to comment that I am reading this statement on behalf of the president of Assyrian Aid Society of Iraq, Mr. Ashur Eskrya, and he regrets not being able to participate in this forum personally. He was not able to obtain a Visa to enter the United States this year despite several attempts. Mr. Eskrya hopes that in the future, there will be mechanisms that are more accessible for representatives of indigenous peoples from all regions, particularly from the Middle East, in order to facilitate their presence at future forums, so that they may voice their respective concerns regarding human rights and other issues.

Thank you. Baseeme Raba.

Main Office: Duhok city center, Local phones: 062 7624037, 062 7624038

Mobiles: 0750 4173402 – 0770 1606959

Email: info@assyrianaidiraq.org, aas_i@yahoo.com, Website: www.assyrianaidiraq.org