

Statement of the Global Indigenous Peoples Caucus
Delivered by Gino Altamirano, Rapporteur of the Global Indigenous Peoples Caucus
Agenda Item No. 6: "Half-day discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples to
food and food sovereignty"

May 14, 2012 - United Nations

Thank you Mr. Chair for the opportunity to make a statement on the increasing problems of food sovereignty. The Global Indigenous Peoples Caucus recommends the full inclusive participation of Indigenous Peoples and Nations in discussions affecting Indigenous Peoples' sovereign and human right to food.

We recommend the creation of mechanisms to be implemented at the local, regional, national and international levels implementing Article 10 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which states:

"Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their land or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and where possible, with the option of return."

Article 10 is extremely important because without traditional Indigenous peoples' access to forests, oceans, rivers, lakes and lands for cultivation and food source sustainability, the protection of safe, secure, healthy, holistic, natural and sovereign food is impossible to achieve.

Lastly, land acquisition for development plays a key role in the separation of Indigenous Peoples from sovereign ancestral lands. Displacement of Indigenous Peoples is a core concern, having an ongoing effect on food accessibility and Indigenous Peoples' sovereign right to the cultivation of traditional foods.

Thank you.