



Statement by

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Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia
to the United Nations

before the Third Session of
the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

on Agenda Item 5
Future Work of the Forum

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Mr. Chairman,

Indonesia attaches great importance to the work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and stands ready to contribute constructively to its future deliberations. It is our common responsibility, as Governments, IPOs and international agencies, to ensure that the Permanent Forum carries out its mandate effectively to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples. That effectiveness depends on the accuracy of the Forum's deliberations and proceedings.

In this light, my delegation wishes to propose some recommendations to improve the Forum's mode of operation in the future as follows:

First, my delegation is deeply concerned and disturbed to learn that irregularities took place during the selection process of Asian experts for the next term of membership of the Permanent Forum. Using the results of that process, the Coordinating Committee enlisted West Papua as an independent country, separate from Indonesia. This did not only bring into question the territorial integrity of Indonesia but it also constituted a grave infringement of the UN Charter.

As an advisory body of ECOSOC, the Permanent Forum should consistently uphold its mandate and moreover, it must scrupulously observe the noble principles of the UN Charter. The recent anomaly of identifying West Papua as an independent country sent the wrong signal to separatists because it created the unfortunate impression that the Permanent Forum serves as a fertile breeding ground to sustain the ambitions of separatist movements.

Secondly, my delegation urges that all participants in this august body fully respect the agreed agenda of discussion as well as the authority of the bureau. It is our common responsibility that the Permanent Forum should effectively fulfill its mandate and meet its target, namely to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples. Any bombastic political expressions will weaken partnerships among concerned parties in this forum.

Mr. Chairman,

Indonesia remains fully committed to the mandate and objectives of this Forum and looks forward to contributing actively to the improvement of its proceedings and discussions.