



Item 4: Six Mandated areas of the UN Permanent Forum on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with reference to the UN Declaration: Economic and Social Development

INTERVENTION by the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council, delivered by Councillor for the Sydney/Newcastle Region, and member of the Wiradjuri People, Councillor Roy Ah-See

Madam Chairperson,

- Unreservedly ratify and **comprehensively implement all human rights obligations** under the human rights treaties, and **use the Declaration as the framework** to guide the development of **economic and social development strategies,**
- **Strengthen capacity-building mechanisms to ensure Indigenous people are able to** identify and develop capacity building opportunities at all levels, with particular consideration given to skill development and adequate resourcing;

- Review policies and programs that affect our lands, territories and resources to ensure Indigenous peoples are **fully and properly participating in decisions about their land and resources**, including through free, prior and informed consent to any development activities in accordance with Article 32 of the Declaration,
- Provide **adequate financial investment and technical assistance to Indigenous peoples** and organisations to assist them to fully realise their social, cultural and economic development aspirations in accordance with Article 39 of the Declaration, and
- Assist Indigenous peoples to utilise their land assets in the most practical way by **reducing unduly burdensome government regulation and policies**, that prevent Indigenous peoples from advancing economic development outcomes and business opportunities.

Madam Chairperson,

- It is a sad day when I can still say to my brothers and sisters, that the Indigenous peoples of Australia continue to be treated as non players in the economic and social prosperity of our Country – in fact, they still call us fringe dwellers – living on the

edge of society. We are a developed Nation, yet we continue to live in third world country conditions.

- NSWALC's approach to economic development aims to achieve wealth-creation and well-being for Aboriginal peoples in NSW.

Four key principles underpin the policy, these are:

- Self-determination – Aboriginal people making decisions for Aboriginal people and with NSWALC driving local and regional initiatives
 - Community development for economic self-reliance – capacity development is a central element to all economic development strategies and initiatives
 - Coordination not duplication – to recognise and utilise the expertise, experience and programs of others and to develop partnerships and facilitate and coordinate rather than duplicate the efforts of others
 - Strong leadership and governance – is the success of any business or organisation.
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- Aboriginal peoples have the right to pursue avenues that provide for better opportunities to derive economic revenue from our lands and resources and to enjoy our fair share of the prosperity of the Australian state.

- Indigenous peoples must also be given the means to independently govern the use of our lands and waters, in ways we choose, in line with Article 32 of the Declaration, based on genuine decision-making powers, practical capacity and legitimate leadership at the local level.

Thank you Madam Chair.