

4e B/05 #46

CULTURE

May 13<sup>th</sup> 2004- morning session,

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Thanks Mr. President,

My name is Mirian Tsibodowapre, I'm from the Terena people from Center of Brazil and I represent here the Brazilian delegation to the third session of the Permanent Forum in The United Nations.

I would like to say that in my country we are 230 indigenous peoples which have keep alive 190 different languages, social organizations and traditional knowledge, different among themselves and from the non-indigenous society.

For centuries the so called dominant and civilized societies denied the importance of indigenous cultures and its influence in the construction of the cultural building in the national states, however it's undeniable that the resistance of our peoples, even being different, it's caused by the maintenance and preservation of our ancestor's culture which have been transmitted from the womb of our indigenous mothers.

I ask to Permanent Forum to recommend to the Brazilian State:

- 1-Recognize, respect, protect and value the sacred sites and the traditional knowledge,
- 2-The right to previous, free and informed consultation shall be assured in actions related to cultural and traditional knowledge research.
- 3-Support the education of professional indigenous in the research field and the appreciation of public institutions which work directly and indirectly with the indigenous culture,

We recommend to the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues in the United Nations that:

All documents and information about multilateral institutions shall be translated and available in Portuguese language.

We want to thank for the opportunity and I cite a thought from a Xavante spiritual leader:

Brazil

5/13/04

'Woman's words are sacred like the Earth'

Thank you all for your attention.