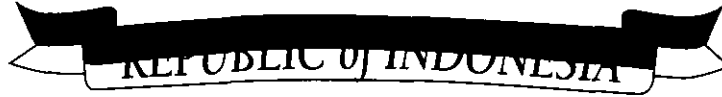




doCip
ARCHIVES



Statement by

Dr. Yayan GH Mulyana

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia
to the United Nations

before the Second Session of
the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

on Agenda Item 4(b)
Mandated Area: Environment

New York, May 16, 2003

Check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Indonesian delegation I would like, first of all, to congratulate you on your assumption as the Chairperson of this session and to express our confidence in fruitful deliberations and successful conclusion under your able stewardship.

Indonesia attaches great importance to environment within the context of sustainable development as one of the essential elements to promote the activities and the well-being of indigenous peoples. Environment plays a critical role not only as a physical but also sacrosanct milieu in which indigenous peoples subsist. Physical ecosystem, which includes, among others, forest, plains and water, is vital to indigenous peoples. Its obliteration such as deforestation will result not only in societal displacement of the indigenous peoples but also their loss of hope for meaningful existence. To most indigenous peoples, physical environment has significances that go beyond corporeal appearances. Once it is destructed, indigenous peoples will lose their passage to their numinous world.

We hold the view that protection of environment and promotion of sustainable development are essential to the future of indigenous peoples. A consistent and successful implementation of the provisions contained in documents related to environment and sustainable development, such as Agenda 21, the 1992 Rio Declaration, the 1997 Nairobi declaration, and the 2002 Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation, in our view, will contribute to the protection of their physical milieu.

My delegation reaffirms its support for the commitments contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation relating to indigenous peoples, especially those included in paragraphs 7 (e), 20 (g), 38(i), 40 (d and r), 42(e), 45(h), 46(b), 54(h), 63, and 109 (a) of the document. We also note with interest the call for the convening of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Development outlined in the Kimberley Declaration. In our view, such a forum may facilitate more focused deliberations on issues relevant to indigenous peoples and their environment.

Mr. Chairman,

Before I conclude, I would like to offer the following suggestions:

First, we encourage the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to promote awareness among indigenous peoples about sustainable development through, among others, translation of UN documents related to environment and sustainable development such as those that I mentioned previously into the languages of indigenous peoples and, in cooperation with governments, NGOs and regional and international organizations, to disseminate those translated documents to indigenous peoples.

Second, we encourage the Forum to promote cooperative study or research on the know-how of indigenous peoples vital to the protection and preservation of their environment and to identify modern knowledge and techniques that complement their know-how. We also encourage the Forum to promote protection for their traditional knowledge.

Third, we encourage the Forum to facilitate and enhance the participation of indigenous peoples in global deliberations on environment and sustainable development.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.