

**Koani Foundation • International Peoples and Nations Coalition
• Aupuni Hawaii**

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Intervention for Item 9 – Future Work

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Aloha Mr. Chair:

This is a joint statement by the Koani Foundation, the International Peoples and Nations Coalition and Aupuni Hawaii.

When the United Nations was created, one of its main objectives was to bring an end to colonialism. To accomplish this, the U.N., under Article 73 of the U.N. Charter, generated a list of *Non-Self-Governing Territories* (NSGTs), along with *Administrative nations* appointed to help the client territories prepare for decolonization following policies, criteria and mechanisms established by the U.N. From the original roster of 51 members in 1945, today, there are 192 members of the U.N. due in large part to the U.N.'s mandate for decolonization.

However, in the past 20 years, the decolonization process slowed to a crawl. Those remaining are primarily Oceanic 'territories.' The nations of the Pacific pursuing decolonization are Tahiti, Rapa Nui, Kanaky, West Papua, Maluku, Guam, American Samoa, Hawaii...and in the far North Pacific, Alaska.

In 1946, both Hawaii and Alaska were enlisted as Article 73 *Non-Self-Governing Territories* and the U.S. was assigned as administrator, ostensibly to assist Hawaii and Alaska toward self-determination and decolonization. However, in 1959, the U.S. fraudulently reported to the U.N. that the peoples of Hawaii and Alaska chose to become domestic "states" of the U.S., thus causing the U.N. to pass Resolution 1469 improperly delisting Hawaii and Alaska as *Non-Self-Governing Territories*.

UN General Assembly Resolution 644 of 12 December 1952 was adopted to abrogate law and policy (including the Doctrine of Discovery) that discriminate against indigenous people in *Non-Self-Governing Territories*. This resolution was never implemented.

At the 2008 session of the Permanent Forum, the Hawaii delegation and the Pacific Caucus initiated an intervention calling on the United Nations to complete the task of *decolonization*. The Permanent Forum adopted the recommendation to convene an Expert Seminar on Decolonization in 2009. This seminar has not yet materialized.

The Koani Foundation the Indigenous Peoples and Nations Coalition and Aupuni Hawaii call upon the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to urge the U.N. to persist in rectifying the damage caused by modern colonial powers by taking the following actions:

- Convene the Expert Seminar on Decolonization approved in 2008;
- Request the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Human Rights Committee to receive and to transmit Petitions from Indigenous Peoples formerly listed as Non-Self-Governing Territories under Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations, to the United Nations General Assembly and to the Decolonization Committee with an invitation from the petitioning representatives of the Indigenous Peoples and Organizations to address the claims of flagrant violations and irregularities in the examination of their cases and situations to send these Petitions to the treaty bodies for further examination for discrimination or violations of international law in accordance with the respective Conventions;
- Revive the U.N.'s mission to engender self-determination through the process of de-colonization and repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.

Mahalo nui loa,
Malama pono