



PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
333 EAST 38TH STREET 9TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10016
Tel: (212) 213-5583 fax: (212) 692-2498
E-mail: pmun@southafrica-newyork.net

STATEMENT BY
DR MASENJANA SIBANDZE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ON THE FUTURE WORK OF THE PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES
AND EMERGING ISSUES

AT THE 13TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON
INDIGENOUS ISSUES

UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK

22 MAY 2014

Madam Chair,

In line with the current discussion, we wish to take this opportunity to recommend elements of discourse for consideration on the future work of the Permanent Forum including emerging issues.

We believe that trends inform policy development and where it is deemed appropriate, we can learn from each other and best practices. We further reiterate that the Permanent Forum should consider such experiences.

As a Forum, we must reaffirm that indigenous peoples face multiple forms of discrimination as indicated in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the outcome document of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (2001), which identified indigenous peoples as victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

In this context, we wish to table the following five practical thrusts which we hope will inform our discourse:

- Strengthening governance of indigenous institutions and peoples - [empowerment of indigenous institutions including leadership, creating systems and procedures for dealing with Indigenous Peoples issues, assisting indigenous peoples and institutions to interface with UN mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur, and the significant others within a given political system];
- Promotion and protection of the cultures and heritages of the Indigenous Peoples - [ensuring that the education systems and curricula in schools should incorporate cultural practices, languages and heritage issues of indigenous peoples for future posterity];
- Improving the capacity and capability of the leadership of indigenous peoples- [building the capacity of the leadership and institutions and ensuring that adequate resources are allocated appropriately so that the leadership and

institutions are able to contribute effectively towards the development of the indigenous peoples and their respective countries as a whole];

- Administration of justice and the restoration of the rights, dignity and integrity of indigenous peoples- [the administration of justice will ensure the restoration of land rights, promotion of traditional courts and building capacity for indigenous peoples and their institutions, including restoration of their dignity];
- Socio-economic and cultural development - [Indigenous peoples have to be fully involved in their socio-economic development (e.g. education institutions, healthcare, access to economic benefits (e.g. mining rights and beneficiation, intellectual property rights on indigenous knowledge systems, promotion of spirituality, cultural tourism).]

Underpinning these pillars is the need to strengthen awareness on issues of indigenous people. Our delegation's view is that in future, we need to be sensitive to the fact that indigenous peoples do not have access to infrastructure such as the internet, computers, electricity etc, to access documents on Papersmart. The Forum needs to ensure that infrastructural issues do not inadvertently limit its work. We are committed to work with the Permanent Forum to find solutions to these issues.

I thank you.

SIYABONGA