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POSITION OF THE SURINAM INDIAN WOMEN

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MISS; GERDA DE BRUYN;

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Dear Madame Chairperen.

I would like to take the opportunity in this occasion to explain the situation of the Indigenous women of Surinam.

The situation of the Indigenous women of Surinam can not be separated from the history of the world where she has played and still plays an important role.

This struggle still remains the primitive inhabitants of the American continent, therefore the inhabitants of Surinam, are contemplating a real and authentic acknowledgement to the existence and the autonomy.

For this reason the history of the Indigenous women of Surinam is not different with the women in other parts of the Americas.

Due to the domination of the colonization and the racial differences our traditions, our costumes, norms of life, religion and culture have been disappearing.

I would like to recall to the speech of my brothers given this week in which they explained to you, the position of the Indigenous people of Surinam and we call to your distinguished attention in order that you can understand the complexity of our position.

The real position of the Indigenous women of Surinam is actually on a low level and it is characterized by three situations.

Because:

- She is a woman
- She belongs to a group, the minority group.
- She is a true Indigenous woman.

The problem is that the Surinam Indigenous women had to confront a minority: that means the problems that are faced by all the Indigenous people who are always :the Marinated.

Whit this I want to appoint that we automactically in arbitrary form, are placed aside and we are denied of our own territory and our own culture which is not recognized.

Therefore the Indigenous women is suffering worse problems for the fact that s he is a women.

Because :

First.For being (unfortunatelly)fled from community and many of our native communities had to be abondened and because of armed violence, many of our Indigenous sisters were obliged to take care for themselves and to their children.

Second.Many Indigenous women do not have a little education and usually they have not education at all,therefore they are in a difficult possition.

Third.Since the possiblities to find jobs are difficult and limited for Indigenous women they are forced into prositütation.

Fourth.Another danger is that th Indigenous women has continous faced oppression of the sociaety of Surinam,we are forced to grate and assimilate and so we lose our authencic identty,our ancestral culture.

The Indigenous women of Surinam were and have been always guarded our most appreciated treasures,culture,religion,tradition,norms and sence of live.This enourmous taks and this enourmous dedication of the Indigenous women of Surinam was difficult in the last years,especially because of the civel war in Surinam as well as the situation in many other countries of South,Central and North Amerika.

This is the struggle that we have faced in order to survive and it takes most of our energie and time .

This is a struggle against the capitalist system which we have to face AS Indigenous people and as Indigenous women which is exploiting and oppressing us.

It is an obligation and a fundametal right that we as Indigenous women and mothers as we are must struggle near our husbands,near our brothers and our children in order to change the actuel situation in which we are living.

Dear Madame Chairperson I am totally conscious that I have not clearly explained the situation and the position of the Indigenous people and the Indigenous women of Surinam.

In name of all my Surinam Indigenous Sisters I wish to give a solidarity support to all the Indigenous women in the world.

I think it is a good idea for the working-group of Indigenous people to take care of the position and the situation of the Indigenous women every year.

I am convinced that you as a woman will bring this item forward.

Thank you very much.