

UNWGIP 6(f)

UN Working group on Indigenous Populations

Item: 6 (f) Other Matters –

The Human Rights situation of Indigenous Peoples in States and Territories threatened with Extinction for Environmental Reasons.

(Working paper prepared by Mrs. Francois Hampson)

Chairperson,

It is with great appreciation we have read (and studied) the excellent working paper by the distinguished member Mrs Hampson, by indicating a current and future source of conflict to all affected indigenous peoples in the Low Lying Islands. The identification and recognition of present and future challenges faced by the phenomenon of sea level rise. In her paper, the author is identifying the various Human and Natural activities contributing to Global Warming resulting in Climate Change. At the same she raises many principle questions to this regard.

SIDS

This paper also addresses the real threats of indigenous peoples on the small islands of the Pacific.

Today, We, the indigenous peoples of the Pacific are challenged by the impact of the Sea Level Rise as part of the Global Warming process for the peoples in the Pacific (and else where). We also note that this important document deserves the full attention of the Pacific Islands governments, the indigenous peoples and all others in the same situation.

We sincerely would hope that many Pacific governments, NGOs and Indigenous Peoples of the Pacific – including the Churches and civic society at large be given the opportunity for further study, analyze, discuss and actively contribute into your important paper and their views at the parent bodies within the UN: Commission on Human Rights or UN Permanent Forum.

The non-presence of Pacific UN Members, Pacific Basin Regional NGO's is the guiding principle and the importance of crosscutting issues raised at this forum requires and deserves a better forum.

In support of and respect for your paper, we are wondering:

How can this important document be fully anticipated by the WG (and the Commission on Human Rights), the specialized UN Agencies (CSD), UNEP and CBD?

How can we include all stakeholders at the local, national, regional and international levels to discuss, elaborate and contribute substantively to this document?

The smallness of Small Islands does determine the limitation in human and financial resources to address this topic.

It is our belief that this paper should also be made available to the Pacific Family.

We therefore recommend a special UN seminar on this topic within the Pacific Basin, in close cooperation with AOSIS (Alliance of Small Islands States), Pacific Regional Indigenous Organizations.

The objective of this seminar should be 3-fold:

- 1) the possible answers into question as posed by the author, Mrs. Francoise Hampson as constructive contribution.
- 2) To establish a common Pacific Indigenous Peoples positions for (future) substantive contribution into the WG of the Sub commission
- 3) To encourage greater participation of Indigenous Peoples Organization, Pacific Governments (AOSIS) and NGO's at the UNWGIP .

Thank you,

Viktor Kaisiepo Msn.

DEWAN ADAT PAPUA

This intervention will be submitted as a collective statement of the Pacific Indigenous Peoples organizations, as signatories: