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United Nations
Working Group on Indigenous Populations
21st Session, Geneva
21-25 July 2003

AGENDA ITEM 6(b):

Follow-up to WCAR

It is clear that, for Indigenous Peoples, little momentum has developed as a result of the World Conference Against Racism, and the Durban Declaration, to eliminate racism against the Indigenous Peoples.

In Year 2000 the Deputy High Commissioner on Human Rights emphasized the need, in the new millennium, to go beyond the development of human rights standards – the priority over the first fifty years of the United Nations – and look towards the *implementation* of those standards.

There are many reasons to criticize the outcomes from the World Conference, which failed to ensure sufficient participation for Indigenous Peoples in the preparation of the Declaration, and subsequently failed to acknowledge the primary issue - the identity of Indigenous Peoples as Peoples.

Regardless, the program of action has, in its entire form, more than enough provisions to commence a concerted effort by States to eliminate racial discrimination against Indigenous Peoples.

The Durban Declaration provides over 200 recommendations for implementation by intergovernmental organizations, States, civil society and the private sector but fails to give a focus for renewed action.

In this regard, we believe that, for Indigenous Peoples, we must identify the resources readily available to us at the international level, in addition to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. We propose these resources:

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous Peoples
The Special Rapporteur on Racism
UNESCO
The International Decade on the World's Indigenous Peoples

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Of course, there are many other resources, but this list incorporates the resources at hand.

To create a focus for implementation of the Durban Declaration recommendations, we nominate the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous Peoples as the best means to focus our attention.

If the Rapporteur was required to include in his report a specific response to the progress on the application of the Durban Declaration, as it relates to Indigenous Peoples, it would allow examination and evaluation on progress.

Immediately this raises two questions:

How can the Special Rapporteur cope with the workload, especially if the Rapporteur is to maintain the current programme of work? Additional resources are needed; and

How is duplication with the work of the Special Rapporteur on Racism avoided? Perhaps the two Rapporteurs might collaborate in the report on Indigenous issues (and this may be without precedence) and also, the two reports of these people might be merged in the Secretary General's report on Racism, to the General Assembly.

The sessions of the Working Group would therefore have available source documents for discussion and consideration.

To generate Indigenous thought and responses to the Durban Declaration, a conference could be held. Already we have made proposals for a World Conference of Indigenous Peoples at the end of the International Decade on the World's Indigenous Peoples, and that proposal might be tailored to consider the Durban Declaration.

We remind the Working Group that an official regional Indigenous Conference, a preparatory meeting to the World Conference Against Racism, was convened for the Pacific Region by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander conference in the Year 2000. The outcomes of that conference have been published, in book form, and is available to the Working Group and participants.