

**Agenda Item 11: Follow-up to the outcome document
of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP)**
Dietrix Jon Ulukoa Duhaylonsod
ulukoa.kealapon@gmail.com

Aloha Madame Chair; and aloha to all gathered here, especially our Indigenous brothers and sisters who have journeyed from the four corners of the globe; aloha pumehana kākou a pau. My name is Dietrix Jon Ulukoa Duhaylonsod, and I bring greetings from the sands of O'ahu of Chief Kākuhihewa in the Hawaiian Islands.

Madame Chair:

Ka Lāhui Hawai'i submits the following recommendations for your consideration hoping that they make it into the final report:

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the United Nations should rebuke the policies of nation states which imperil our environment and should start considering sufficient policy tools to equitably address the issues of climate-related displacement and climate-related migration of Indigenous populations.
2. That the United Nations allows Indigenous Peoples to be partners in purposeful decision-making events such as the Regional Colloquium on Constitutions, Environment, and Human Rights in Brasilia, Brazil; the 3rd Meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3); the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and so forth.
3. That the United Nations supports the statement made by the Arctic Caucus relating to the Permanent Observer status which has been discussed by Indigenous Peoples over the last three years. We look forward to collaborating with those from the Arctic and other Caucuses to ensure this status is realized.
4. That the United Nations facilitate the elevation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to an International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
5. That the United Nations places Hawai'i back onto the list of nations to decolonize.
6. That the United Nations Special Rapporteur investigates the concern of our relatives of Te Hika o Pāpāuma regarding their forced assimilation and the dismissal of their identity.

As a follow-up to the Outcome Document of the WCIP, we would like to especially address Item #36 which promotes Indigenous knowledge and strategies of environmental sustainability in the development of national and international approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Indigenous Peoples have long been traditional caretakers of the environment. Since time immemorial, First Peoples around the globe have lived in harmony with the natural world --- from our small isolated islands to our high-altitude zones, from our desert margins to our tropical jungles to our circumpolar Arctic.

However, attitudes of our government policy makers at the highest level are currently devolving. Recent executive decisions are contrary to the noble ideas advocated at the WCIP. In January of this year, three Presidential Memoranda were signed to push the expansion of oil pipelines across the United States (Business Insider 2017) such as the Dakota Access and the Keystone XL pipelines which have been and

continue to be opposed by the Indigenous Peoples of their respective areas due to many concerns including the risk of water contamination.

Another Presidential Memorandum was signed in March which had cut more than 30% out of the budget for the Environmental Protection Agency. Also in March, an Executive Order was signed which dismantled the previous administration's actions to protect us against the dire impacts of global warming (Business Insider 2017), and which rescinded the previous Executive guidance which outlined a strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The reality today is that due to the effect of climate change on air quality, there has been an amplification of cardiovascular problems brought about by an accumulation of aerial particulate matters. Due to the stimulation of extreme precipitation events, there has been an increase in water-borne outbreaks. Due to more frequent heatwaves caused by rising temperatures, there have been thousands of deaths attributed to the excessive heat. Due to the climate change's expansion of the geographical range of vectors, there has been an escalation in the cases of vector-borne diseases (APHA 2017). According to the World Health Organization, "Climate change is already impacting the environment --- and it is increasingly causing harm to human health... From 2030 to 2050, about 250,000 additional people are expected to die every year from the effects of climate change" (The Nation's Health 2017).

In Hawai'i, scientific data has validated concerns over rising sea level, warming ocean surface temperatures, beach erosion, marine habitat destruction, and the detrimental effects of heightened irregular weather conditions on water resources and the survivability of our islands' biodiversity (Zhang et al. 2016).

UN member states need to put more attention on designing and implementing strategies for urgently transitioning out of fossil fuel-based energy systems and into comprehensive renewable energy systems. Governments must rise above political agendas and cooperate in international initiatives towards our global well-being. With climate change there is an increased potential for the dislocation of Indigenous Peoples from their homelands. Any relocation of our peoples must be complemented with an effective program of securing full human rights protections for those relocated. This will ensure the preservation of the affected communities' Indigenous identity and status as First Nations Peoples with the associated Indigenous rights should they find themselves displaced to a new homeland. Such a program is necessary to facilitate political functionality and to protect our cultural diversity.

These are our thoughts, concerns and recommendations. Mahalo no kā 'oukou ho'olohe 'ana mai.

References:

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