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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues - 13-24 May 2002 Agenda Item 5 - General Statement

Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples (NCIV)

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Thank you Mr. Chairman,

First of all my organization, the Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples (NCIV) wishes to congratulate you, as well as all of the members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, on its historic first meeting. As the list of speakers is long, I will just make a very brief statement.

NCIV is a European-based organization which has been working in support of Indigenous Peoples for the past 30 years and has been actively following the international processes leading up to the establishment of this Forum. In order to support the participation of Indigenous Peoples to international fora such as these, NCIV is a contributing member to the Human Rights Fund for Indigenous Peoples. Further, NCIV has begun a 3-year Programme, which will increase our support to both Indigenous initiated projects, as well as continue supporting the important international work being done in fora such as these. This in order to ensure that we provide support to the many levels in which Indigenous Peoples choose to work for their rights, be it on the local, national regional or international levels. More information on our Programme can be found on our website:

www.nciv.net

NCIV had the privilege to work as the Secretariat for the recent Indigenous Peoples Millennium Conference. The final conference report, which was already submitted to this meeting, contains all of the major documents coming out of this conference, including a specific Resolution on the Permanent Forum. As some of the conference's Steering Committee members have already stated, it was hoped that the major conference documents would be made available in the form of official UN documents for this meeting. As this was not the case, these documents have now been resubmitted. We thus support their requests to have these documents become official UN documents, as was the wish of the conference's participants.

Finally, we would like to wish the Permanent Forum much success in its future work.

Thank you Mr. Chairman