

(33)

UNITED NATIONS WORKING GROUP ON INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

23rd SESSION

18-22 July 2005

Agenda item 7c :

Disappearing states

Oral intervention submitted by:

Ghazali M. Ohorcella

Bangsa Adat AlifUru

Mr. Chair,
Distinguish members of the Working Group,
Indigenous Brothers and Sisters.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The human rights issues in especially in the Pacific have always been of great concern to the people in Maluku. Living for decades under continuous threat of being exterminated as Land and Nation by the Indonesian military occupation and suppression, the Moluccan people as inhabitants of 999 islands on the Sahul plate in the Pacific have always been conscious of another threat posed by Mother Nature's unpredictable capriciousness. Capriciousness. that may bring radical changes to our lives, land, territories and environment.

In ancient times Maluku belonged to the MU civilization. According to ancient history MU was a large world continent in the Pacific region that disappeared also hundreds of ages ago due to what was believed the rising of the ocean.

The indigenous Alifuru people of Maluku to this day are conscious of the constant threat of repetition of this form of natural disaster. We express our solidarity with the people of Tuvalu who are now facing this imminent threat. In this context it is important to be alert of the policies of certain states that misuses natural disasters by relocating other peoples to the ancestral lands of indigenous peoples. In the 1970's , for example, the Indonesian government had relocated the original inhabitants of the NTS islands in Maluku under the pretext of the imminent danger of a volcano eruption that would make disappear the islands. However, until now, while the original inhabitants have been deported, their ancestral lands are now prone to exploring and exploitation by multinationals and other transmigrants.

We urge the United Nations to develop global warning systems for the Pacific area that is most vulnerable to this sort of natural disasters.

Another way of solution is also to find techniques to gain land and to fight land erosion.

Thank you Mr. Chair.