



COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Sub-Commission on the Promotion  
and Protection of Human Rights  
Working Group on Indigenous Populations  
Twenty-Third Session  
18-22 July 2005

**Item 7c: The human rights situation of indigenous peoples in States and territories threatened with extinction for environmental reasons**

**Intervention by Les Malezer**

**Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action**

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Mr Chairperson, we are providing our comments in response to document E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/28, prepared by Francoise Hampson for the forthcoming Sub-Commission session. We are pleased to see the development of the examination of the situation of Indigenous Peoples who risk losing their territories and identity as a result of natural and human-caused degradation of the environment.

We are in full support of the recommendations made in the document, principally the intention to continue the study and obtain more specific information regarding the status of those States and Territories under threat of extinction, and the actions taken by other authorities such as the Commonwealth.

I would also like to point out the Pacific Caucus, who will be making a statement under this item, has agreed to include this issue on its agenda and consider the document at its next proposed meeting in March 2006.

One of the important facts which we would like to see established, in time for our meeting is the actual States or Territories which are under immediate threat. This will allow us to pursue answers to some of the human rights questions which are posed in the document. We note that the Hawaii Institute for Human Rights will be having further collaboration with Tuvalu. To our understanding Tuvalu is the State at most risk of losing its territories through the rise in sea levels. We would like to be informed further of the responses that Tuvalu might have to the human rights issues that are raised in Ms Hampson's report. Perhaps Tuvalu might cooperate by providing a report for the attention of this Working Group at the next session.

Again we reiterate our support for this study and hope the Working Group will recommend, with positive results from the Sub-Commission, continuation of this expert study.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.