

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Sixth Session
United Nations, New York
May 14-25, 2007

Agenda item 10

Topic: Thematic Focus UNPFII for 2008

Presented by: Malia Nobrega

Joint Intervention

Indigenous World Association, Na Koa Ikaika o ka Lahui Hawaii, Waikiki Hawaiian Civic Club, Ilioulaokalani Coalition, Hui Hoopakele Aina, Pacific Indigenous Peoples Environment Coalition, Global Forest Coalition, Te Atawhai o Te Ao: Independent Maori Institute for Environment and Health, Ka Lahui Hawaii, Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, Saami Council, Pu Fenua Pu Metua, Ombuds- Office of Indigenous Peoples and Nationalities of Ecuador in America (DEPIEA), KKF- Khmer Krom, Society for Threatened Peoples International (Ecosoc), Earth Peoples, People Tribal Council of West Papua, World Council of Churches (Australia), Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action, Bangsa Adat Alifuru – Maluku, La Redxicana Indignra, Winnemem Wintu Tribe, Buffalo River Dene Nation, 'Ahahui Siwila Hawai'i o Kapolei, Hawaii Institute for Human Rights, Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

Recommendation

- **We recommend that the UNPFII designate the theme for 2008 as Climate Change.**
- **We recommend that the new agenda item to address climate change at the WGIP, interventions, and reports of The Human Rights Situation of Indigenous Peoples in States and Territories Threatened with Extinction for Environmental Reasons be included as a foundation for the UNPFII seventh session.**
- **We recommend that the questionnaire of The Legal Implications of Disappearance of States and Other Territories for Environmental Reasons, Including the Implications for the Human Rights of Their Residents, with Particular Reference to the Rights of Indigenous Peoples sent out by the OHCHR should be assembled and shared with the UNPFII at next year's session.**

Thank you Madame Chair and Members of the Forum.

Climate Change is an issue and topic which is cross cutting. It relates to several of the Forums Thematic Areas of work including Environment, Culture, Health, Economic Development, and Human Rights.

For the indigenous peoples of the Pacific, climate change has emerged as a significant priority. The Pacific Basin and the Pacific Ocean are a key component in the climate of the world and significantly impact the regulation of global tides and the reef system and marine food chain for the majority of the worlds peoples. On this issue, Pacific peoples and indigenous independent States are speaking with one voice. We support the efforts of the Government of Tuvalu and the Tuvalu indigenous peoples who are losing their land to rising ocean tides and who are endorsing

an international and unified effort to address the serious and potentially irreversible impacts of climate change. The small nations and indigenous peoples of the Pacific cannot address this crisis on a regional basis. It must be addressed in the international arena thru a globalized approach.

Climate change is having a tragic impact in the arctic where endemic species and the cultures of indigenous peoples are facing extinction. The ramifications for the world are undeniable and irreversible. The Headwaters of the earth are the glaciers of the Arctic, because of climate change and global warming the entire hydro and marine cycle of the earth is being disrupted.

Statistics indicate that environmental catastrophies (flooding, desertification, hurricanes, tornadoes, and tsunamis, etc.) are increasing with devastating losses- to life, property, and sadly to indigenous cultures and peoples.

Therefore, we recommend that the Forum designate climate change as the theme for the 2008 session of the UNPFII. This will provide a significant opportunity to have this issue addressed by States, indigenous peoples, NGOs and UN agencies and to explore better coordination of diverse efforts to address climate change.

We also recommend that the new agenda item to address climate change at the WGIP, interventions, and reports of The Human Rights Situation of Indigenous Peoples in States and Territories Threatened with Extinction for Environmental Reasons be included as a foundation for the UNPFII seventh session.

Finally we also recommend that the questionnaire of The Legal Implications of Disappearance of States and Other Territories for Environmental Reasons, Including the Implications for the Human Rights of Their Residents, with Particular Reference to the Rights of Indigenous Peoples sent out by the OHCHR should be assembled and shared with the UNPFII at next year's session.

Thank you Madame Chair.