

**Association of Indigenous Peoples in the Ryukyus**  
**Statement to the 22<sup>nd</sup> United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations**  
**Geneva, Switzerland**  
**July 19~23, 2004**

**Item6(F)**

The Association of Indigenous Peoples in the Ryukyus supports the WGIP in addressing the serious matter of so-called sinking states, which is an unprecedented challenge facing Indigenous Peoples of the Pacific and Caribbean. We encourage the Working Group to make it an agenda item next year. Island states such as Tuvalu must not be allowed to sink into disappearance from our family of nations.

Indigenous Peoples must not become extinct due to ecocidal practices by multinational corporations and industrial states.

We would like to make the following recommendations:

- Sponsor a seminar to categorize Indigenous peoples facing immediate catastrophe as well as other states' impending circumstances.
- Compile thorough and quantifiable documentation of the problems associated with rising sea levels.
- Encourage regional cooperation through existing mechanisms in affected areas of the Pacific and Caribbean.
- Hold a seminar in these regions to allow Indigenous peoples to speak and share perspectives on challenges associated with rising sea levels, including legal issues and Indigenous peoples' values and visions of their relation to states.