

INTERVENTION OF
NA KOA IKAIKA O KA LAHUI HAWAII

Item #: 5 Topic: General Statement Presenter: Le'a Kanehe

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving Na Koa Ikaika o Ka Lahui Hawai'i this opportunity to address the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and make the following recommendations.

1. Relating to the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

We encourage the Permanent Forum to critically report the fact that the deliberations in the intersessional Working Group on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are not making any progress. The lack of progress is a direct result of stonewalling by a handful of states who are abusing the process and redrafting the Declaration to diminish the rights of Indigenous Peoples. We would like the Permanent Forum to shine the light on this fact.

2. Calling for a new Decade on Indigenous Peoples

We encourage the Permanent Forum's report to reflect is that both the Final Report of the Indigenous Peoples' Millennium Conference and the Human Rights Commission Mid-Decade Assessment reported that the Program of Action for the Decade on Indigenous Peoples has not been met. Although the Indigenous Peoples of the world have achieved several significant goals, states and UN agencies have not fulfilled many of their obligations. One of the main goals of the Decade was the approval of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. However, as eight years have past and 2004 draws near, and the Declaration is stalled, we deem it appropriate to call for a second decade on Indigenous Peoples.

3. Funding for Permanent Forum Members to be sent to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development

We would like funding to be provided for Permanent Forum Members to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa in August – September of this year. Sustainable development is a very critical issue for Indigenous Peoples and therefore it is very important that Permanent Forum Members are able to attend and actively participate in the deliberations.

4. Establishment of an Indigenous Media Website

We encourage the Permanent Forum to establish an Indigenous media website with a link to its own separate site that will serve as a focal point for information and documentation on Indigenous Peoples. This website is one way to facilitate widespread dissemination of information on Indigenous issues.

5. Establishment of a Working Group on Free & Prior Informed Consent and Participatory Research Guidelines

Throughout the many meetings here at the First Session of the Permanent Forum we have observed a persistent concern regarding Free & Prior Informed Consent (FPIC)

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that cuts across all theme areas. The many interventions on economic development, environmental, health, education and human rights have all raised the issue of FPIC. Also in the area medical and genetic research, there is a critical need to address Participatory Research Guidelines (PRG) in order to ensure that indigenous peoples are protected and benefit directly from such research. Therefore we would like the Permanent Forum to establish a Working Group on FPIC & PRGs that would bring representatives of the PF, NGOs, indigenous representatives, specialized UN agencies, and observer states to the table together to establish protocols and guidelines for engagement in indigenous communities.

6. Funding for regional consultations with the Permanent Forum

We find it necessary for the Permanent Forum to seek funding and make it a budget item to hold regional consultations with our respective representatives. It is quite clear from this First Session that although there are many overarching themes which all Indigenous Peoples face, there are also distinct needs from community to community, country to country, and region to region. Therefore we request that sufficient funding be approved for consultations where indigenous peoples can come together in a safe environment to raise the unique issues of their communities with our indigenous representatives.

Aloha a mahalo.

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