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AGENDA ITEM 6(a): *Cooperation with UN Bodies ...*

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Mr Yokota has presented some ideas for forms of cooperation between this Working Group and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous Peoples.

The work of the Special Rapporteur is still in the developing stages, however it is very satisfying to see the quality of the reporting by the Special Rapporteur to the Commission on Human Rights.

Although there is much opportunity for Indigenous Peoples to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur including the opportunity for country visits, there is not an opportunity for the Working Group, as a forum, to consider those aspects of his report which relate to human rights and standard-setting activities.

As we are aware the report of the Special Rapporteur is submitted to the Commission on Human Rights, and from there any further elaboration may be made in ECOSOC or the General Assembly. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues does get the opportunity to examine the report prior to the ECOSOC consideration of any relevant issues, but the Permanent Forum would be looking at the means of implementing any practical recommendations of the Special Rapporteur which are supported by the Commission on Human Rights.

As the report of the Special Rapporteur is presented each year in the period of March/April, it is possible for the Working Group on Indigenous Populations to consider issues arising from the report in its session in July.

This leads us to support Recommendation C in Mr Yokota's report. Our view is that in the agenda for the next session of the Working Group, the item on 'Standard Setting' should include a sub category on 'The Administration of Justice', focussed upon the relevant aspects which may exist in the Special Rapporteur's next report. Of course, the Working Group agenda will be flexible enough to allow consideration of any other 'standard-setting' issues raised by the Special Rapporteur.

We are also in full support with Recommendation F where it is proposed to host collaboration

between the three United Nations mechanisms at the time of the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the Working Group.

Finally we respond positively to a proposal made at the beginning of this session that the Working Group consider forms of collaboration with other bodies in the Human Rights area of the United Nations.

We are interested in the idea that the Working Group facilitate a meeting the various human-rights treaty bodies to coordinate the interpretation and development of standards to have useful interpretations for Indigenous Peoples under existing human rights conventions.

We are aware that the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination have already developed such interpretations, and encourage more work in this direction. It would be useful, perhaps, for the CERD committee to develop guidelines or recommendations for States that might guide the States on how to include important areas of information in their periodic reports to the Committee.

Also it would be useful for CERD, perhaps in some form of cooperation with the Working Group to develop models for implementing recommendations from the World Conference Against Racism which can lead to the advantage and benefit of Indigenous Peoples. In this aspect, we are referring more specifically to the 'mainstream recommendations' and not just the recommendations pertaining to Indigenous Peoples.