SUB COMMISSION ON THE PROMOSION AND RPOTECTION OF 21st session of the Working Commission of the 21st session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, Geneva, Switzerland. 21-25 July 2003-07-24

ITEM 6c REVIW OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.

Intervention By,

S.T.PARTE President United ZO Indigenous Peoples(ZOIPU)

Respected Chairman, Expert members of Indigenous Issues and Indigenous Leaders,

Thousands of Indigenous peoples and Nations participated in the Working Group on Indigenous Population, since 1982. A member of indigenous related programmes and projects being implemented and planed by United Nations Bodies, but no mechanism to ensure regular exchange of information and relationship between United Nations system and indigenous people.

Thank you the United Nations reform objectives endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/300 mentioned, the ultimate goal must be to ensure that indigenous peoples are provided with an effective voice within the UN system and that their rights and aspirations are respected and protected.

The Decade for indigenous People almost being over, there are many Groups of indigenous people working together and co-operating with the various agencies of the United Nations. But there are also very few people truly and sincerely working for the Indigenous groups. The only Forum through which we could freely express our views and problems, i.e. the Working Groups on Indigenous Populations also seems to be at the stage of being abolished.

In view of the above facts, I would like to highlight the following points to the knowledge of the Chairman, Indigenous experts and member states,

- Another Decade may be extended for the working Group of the Indigenous 1. Population,
- 2. Early adoption of the Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous people to facilitate the working system and the future of Indigenous people.
- 3. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues should be strengthened and allowed to function widely and freely.
- 4. There should be a coordinated working system amongst the indigenous people, the indigenous experts and various organs of the United Nations.

Thank you Chairman for your kind attention.