

Statement of Mr. R.J. Lakra

**WORLD ADIVASI COUNCIL (WAC) AT THE UN WORKING GROUP ON
INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS**

Geneva, 21-25 July 2003, 21st session

Agenda Item n°6(d) : state of voluntary funds

Mr Chairman,

We are highly obliged and very thankful that financial support is being made available from the Voluntary Funds so that financially weaker Organisations can also participate in the UN meetings concerning their issues. However, we notice that this provision is continuously being misused by non-indigenous persons, in particular from Asia and Africa. This matter has been raised in the Briefing on Voluntary Funds on the 23rd of July by several indigenous delegates.

Therefore it is proposed that some measures should be taken by the voluntary funding agencies to encounter and stop the misuse.

The following proposals may be of some use in this regard :

1. In the application form and in respective information documents, it should be clearly mentioned that this is a program only for Indigenous delegates. Today, almost all Indigenous Groups are in a position to articulate their concern in the respective meetings.
2. There are one or more well-known authentic Indigenous organisations in every country/region which can be consulted about the genuineness of the applicant.
3. There are long established credible institutions like Red Cross or churches all over the world who have knowledge about the subject in their areas.
4. It may not be out of place to mention that not all the supporting organisations for indigenous cause are sincere. Due attention should be paid in this sphere.

It is requested that this matter may please be brought in the notice of the respective voluntary funding agencies.

Thank you, Mr Chairman, for your kind listening.