

## **Indigenous Peoples and Nations Coalition**

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23<sup>rd</sup> Working Group on Indigenous Populations  
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Item 4 (c) Conflict Resolution

Camai -- Greetings distinguished Chair, Members of the Working Group and all distinguished Indigenous delegates and all other participants.

The struggle for the survival of Indigenous Peoples in the classical era of colonization and in this modern era on indigenous lands, territories and resources has left a historical and continuing legacy of unresolved conflicts. The phenomena of colonialism and its sequels is manifested and perpetuated with both the classical symptoms and by a new era of emerging attributes of colonialism. The lack of control over indigenous lands, territories and resources in a new an emerging era of information and technological growth has left indigenous peoples out of the sphere of influence in all phases of development. The lack of protection in the face of the dispossession and deprivation of indigenous property at the local, national and international level has had a devastating affect on the living conditions for health and well being of indigenous peoples. There is a need to identify the components of colonialism and its sequels to better understand the gaps in the various phases and evolution in the development of domestic and international law.

We would like to develop a paper and follow up with a working group or seminar that will attempt identify the dimensions of colonialism and its sequels and identify the existing gaps in the omission of standards. This will allow us to better comprehend our situations and move toward resolving our conflicts from a rights based approach. Further, we need to develop a regime for our protection against further exploitation of indigenous peoples and property. This will assist in the reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous sectors of society.

A preambular paragraph regarding the sequels of colonialism was referred to in a Sub-Commission 2004/15 to allow us an introduction of this question. It reads as follows:

*"Deeply concerned at the still-visible sequels of the colonial era that continue to adversely affect the living conditions of indigenous peoples in various parts of the world."*