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**United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Twelfth Session – New York
20-31 May 2012**

**Item 8: Future Work of the Forum, Extractive Industries &
Study on Decolonization of the Pacific Region**

Intervention on behalf of the Pacific Caucus.

Thank you Mr Chair

Acknowledging the traditional owners of this land, the Pacific Caucus honors and pays our respects to the Elders and Ancestors.

The Pacific Caucus strongly endorses the UN PFII Study on decolonization of the Pacific region [E/C.19/2013/12]. It is a comprehensive review of the challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples and the strategies that have been employed in the area of decolonization.

In addition, Mr. Chair, the Pacific Caucus supports the Pacific Declaration of the Preparatory Meeting for Pacific Indigenous Peoples on the World Indigenous Peoples 2014, which was held on March 19-21, 2013, in Redfern, Sydney, Australia.

Recommendations

Hawai'i

1. That the Permanent Forum call upon the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to support the establishment of a World Conference on Decolonization.
2. That Hawai'i be re-inscribed onto the list of non-self-governing territories.
3. The Hawai'i delegation is also very pleased that the UN General Assembly voted on Friday, May 17, 2013 to add French Polynesia to its list of territories that should be decolonized, affirming the right of the islands' inhabitants (Ta'ata Maohi) to "self-determination and independence" in accordance with [A/67/L.56/Rev.1]. The Hawai'i delegation calls upon the Permanent Forum and the UN General Assembly to also support Hawai'i's right to be re-inscribed onto the list of non-self governing territories. Furthermore, we call upon the US government to facilitate an expeditious process towards self-determination for indigenous Hawaiians.
4. That the Forum also review, analyze and seriously consider the following UN report of the study of Indigenous Peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources within the UN system, E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/30, written by Madame Erica Daes.

Rapanui

Rapanui also known as Easter Island seeks admission to the U.N. list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to join the ranks of our Pacific brothers and sisters from American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Pitcairn and Tokelau, working to create conditions for self-determination in accordance with UN GA Resolution 1514, "The Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples."

Chile has violated the trust mandate of the UN Charter, Chapter XI, by not assuming responsibilities for the administration of Rapanui, whose peoples have not yet attained any or full measure of self-government.

Chile has failed to recognize the interests of the inhabitants of Rapanui as being paramount, and they have failed to accept as a sacred trust the obligation to promote to the utmost, within the system of international peace and security established by the present Charter, the well-being of the inhabitants of Rapanui, and, to this end:

1. Chile has failed to ensure due respect for the culture of the Rapanui, our political, economic, social, educational advancement, just treatment, and/or protection against abuses;
2. Chile has failed to develop Rapanui self-government, and failed to take due account of the political aspirations of Rapanui, and to assist us in the progressive development of our free political institutions, according to our distinct culture as Pacific Islanders belonging to Polynesia.

West Papua

We agree with Ms. Toki's study that Indonesian presence has led to the systematic annihilation of indigenous West Papuans, and we endorse her recommendation that the General Assembly once again place West Papua on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories to better protect the right to self-determination of West Papuan Indigenous peoples.

Indigenous peoples of West Papua have faced five decades of injustice because economic and political interests manipulated the decolonization process in the 1960s. These interests influenced the decision of United Nations to undermine our right to self-determination.

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The United Nations can begin to redress this history. The General Assembly should take urgent action reinstate West Papua on the list of Non-Self-Governing-Territories.

On Extractive Industries

The loss of our environment from extractive industries has devastating affects on the health and well being of our land, environment, ecology, and on our families and communities. This loss of our environment amplifies the disadvantages of our indigenous peoples and is in violation of the Declaration articles:

- Article 18 regarding and maintaining our own indigenous decision-making institutions
- Article 24 regarding rights to traditional medicines and highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
- Article 29 regarding the conservation and protection of the environment

Million dollar corporations and governments dominate all aspects and processes overseeing land uses and development—ensuring their own gains at the cost of indigenous peoples and the environment.

We provide the following 3 recommendations,

1. We recommend the UN to urge all “extractive industries” to implement and integrate the Declaration in conjunction with the human rights to support cooperative efforts with indigenous people.
2. We recommend the UN to urge states, corporations, and all agents termed as “extractive industries” as defined in section 9 of the Consolidated report on extractive industries and their impact on indigenous peoples, E/C.19/2013/16 to pursue a mechanism with the authority of jurisprudence to protect the rights of the land and the indigenous peoples as outlined in the DRIP.
3. In relation to recommendations at paragraphs 40 and 148 of the Permanent Forum’s report on its Ninth session, we recommend that the Permanent Forum calls upon States and related UN Agencies to, in particular:
 - a. *Recognise* the unacceptably harmful effects of fossil fuel extraction and use on the natural environment and Indigenous Peoples lands, territories, resources and culture; and
 - b. In collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, *design and implement* a practical, comprehensive, meaningful and equitable strategy to urgently transition away from fossil fuel dependence to clean, renewable and/or free energy based systems and infrastructure.

Aotearoa

On Business Practices and Trade Agreements

1. We urgently request that the Permanent Forum expand its Eighth Session recommendation (at para 13 of its report) by calling upon the World Trade Organization to ensure that all business practices comply with Indigenous Peoples human rights, by integrating the relevant provisions of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into its rules concerning business practices - including corporate law and trade agreements.

On Agenda 21

2. We also ask that, in the implementation of its recommendation at paragraph 29 of its report of its Second Session, the Permanent Forum enthusiastically calls on the UN member States, UN Agencies, funds, programs and intergovernmental organizations to ensure that Agenda 21 – or any policies, instruments or other mechanisms that succeed Agenda 21 - will be implemented in alignment with the standards contained in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Thank you Mr. Chair and Members of the Permanent Forum.