

**Pacific Caucus Statement
16th Session of the United Nations
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Thursday, May 4, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

United Nations New York Conference Room 4

Agenda: 2030 Agenda

Aloha, Kia Ora, Bula Madame Chair; and aloha to all gathered here, especially our Indigenous brothers and sisters who have journeyed from the four corners of the globe; Aloha pumehana kākou a pau.

Madame Chair:

On behalf of Indigenous Peoples Organizations from Hawai'i, Aotearoa (New Zealand), and Fiji, I submit the following recommendations for your consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS
(Hawai'i)

1. That the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) should rebuke the policies of nation states, which imperil our environment and should start considering sufficient policy tools to equitably approach the issues of climate-related displacement and climate-related migration of Indigenous Peoples.
2. That the United Nations PFII allows Indigenous Peoples to be partners in purposeful decision-making events such as the Regional Colloquium on Constitutions, Environment, and Human Rights in Brasilia, Brazil; the 3rd Meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3); the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and so forth.
3. That the United Nations PFII supports the statement made by the Arctic Caucus relating to the Permanent Observer status which has been discussed by Indigenous Peoples over the last three years. We look forward to collaborating with those from the Arctic and other Caucuses to ensure this status is achieved and realized.

(Aotearoa, New Zealand)

In NZ today big oil companies are exploring our coastlines for oil and iron-sands with the support of our NZ Government. They are drilling and using seismic blasting methods, that has immediate impacts on the marine life in our waters. This is a new industry with little know about it and there is huge potential for an environmental disaster and unrepairable damage to our ecosystems and marine life.

We recommend, the United Nations PFII supports the statements made by Indigenous representatives from Aotearoa, New Zealand;

1. That the NZ government withdraw its support to big oil companies and cease all seismic blasting along our coastlines,
2. That the NZ government explore alternative clean energy sources that align to its commitment to reducing climate change, and
3. That the United Nations investigates the concern of our relatives of Te Hika o Pāpāuma regarding their forced assimilation and the dismissal of their identity.

(FIJI)

The Government of Fiji is holding an election in 2018, which is being undermined.

As such, the Fiji Indigenous Peoples Organization requests the support of the United Nations PFII and other UN agencies in the following:

1. That the UN PFII calls upon the General Assembly to adopt a resolution that ensures the 2018 election is conducted in fair, impartial and balanced manner.
2. That the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples visits Fiji to investigate the 2018 elections assuring fairness and integrity of the vote.
3. That the UN PFII send an urgent action to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination relating to the 2018 election,

calling upon the Government of Fiji to conduct a fair, impartial and balanced election.