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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Agenda Item #5 – General Statements

Mr. Chair, Members of the Permanent Forum, Indigenous Representatives
and government delegates:

Ke welina mai nei ia 'oukou pakahi. Mai Hawai'inuiakea i ka mole o lehua
ke a mai nei no ke kukui malamalama no ka pono o Ka Lahui Hawai'i.

My name is Keali'i'olu'olu Gora, lieutenant governor and chair of
international affairs of Ka Lahui Hawai'i, a native initiative for Hawaiian
self-determination, comprising of 19,000 citizens who reside in the
Hawaiian islands and elsewhere, seating a government in exile. Mahalo
(thank you) for allowing me the opportunity to intervene on this agenda
item.

Mr. Chair, our delegation has intervened on previous agenda items relating
to environment and health, and at this time I would like to present our
general statements to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which we
seek your immediate support adoption and implementation.

First, Ka Lahui Hawai'i unequivocally supports the United Nations
Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as adopted by the UN
Working Group on Indigenous Peoples and the Sub-Commission on Human
Rights in 1993 and 1994, respectively. However, I do want to bring to your
attention, that for the last seven (7) years, the Intersessional Working Group
on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has
only adopted two (2) articles out of a total of 45 articles. This process is not
working and has proven to be an abysmal failure. Furthermore, this working
group, through all their deliberations, has failed to address the issues of self-

determination and the “s” in peoples. Ka Lahui Hawai’i calls upon the members of the permanent forum to discuss and address the issues of self-determination, the “s” in peoples and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Additionally, we call upon all UN agencies to do the same.

Second, because there is only (2) years left in the International Decade of the World’s Indigenous Peoples, our delegation would like to request from the members of the permanent forum on indigenous issues to extend the international decade for another ten (10) years, 2005-2014. The reason I would like to recommend this is primarily based on the mere fact that there has been very little done by the nation/states to address and resolves the plights of the world’s indigenous peoples. Also, the track record of these governments and agencies as it relates to indigenous peoples has been poor and even horrific. Therefore, more time, effort and good faith commitment by the governments are integral and vital to the success of the world’s indigenous peoples, our lives, our future and our destiny.

Third, Mr. Chair, Ka Lahui Hawai’i would like to address the issue of informed consent in all areas where indigenous peoples are affected. In order for true partnerships to occur, all parties, in particular indigenous peoples, should be involved in the formal consultations and implementation before anything is initiated. No project, activity or development should be implemented without the informed consent of the indigenous peoples.

Lastly, the budget of the PFII needs to be a top priority. As there will be numerous UN conferences and activities including the World Conference on Sustainable Development, members of the PFII should be provided with the necessary funding to participate in these forums, seminars, and conventions in order for them to carry out their responsibilities. Mr. Chair, the need for inclusion into the UN budget is critical and of utmost importance. Ka Lahui Hawai’I hopes you will consider our recommendations as a matter of urgency.

Mahalo (thank you) Mr. Chair.