

# International Organization of Indigenous Resource Development

An NGO in consultative status to the United Nations  
Economic and Social Council

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**INTERVENTION**  
**ITEM 4(d) U.N. BODY**

A point of clarification, Mr. Chairman, are we now generally on Item 4(d) or just on your comment of E.C.O.S.O.C.?

Thank you. At the risk of being a lone voice because there have been many interventions on the Permanent Forum being with E.C.O.S.O.C., I would remind us that the resolution calls for the establishment of a Permanent Forum at the "highest level" of the United Nations' System. E.C.O.S.O.C. is not the highest level. I would also recall three proposals, that should not be ignored, that were presented in Santiago, Chile; (i) The proposal at the level of the General Assembly, (ii) The proposal with the Secretary General's office, and (iii) The status as "Nations" at the General Assembly, even if as observers to begin with, for those Indigenous Nations who have signed International Treaties. If the Permanent Forum is to be considered at the E.C.O.S.O.C. level, it can only be if it is "AT LEAST" at the E.C.O.S.O.C. and not any lower.

With regard to the proposals by Brazil and the United States among others who suggest it be at the Working Group level; like the W.G.I.P., even with an expanded mandate; as you know, sir, this is the lowest level in the United Nations' System and is not in keeping with the resolutions for the highest level. Thank you.

*W. Littlechild QC.*  
*Feb 17/99*

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TOTAL P.07