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## **The concept of development and chances to participate**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

First of all, let me congratulate the Working Group at this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. With regard to the continuation of last year's theme, I would like to comment briefly on two central terms. First, the concept of development has been coined by the industrial culture. It implies that changes should occur towards a certain direction. By defining itself as "developed", the First World disqualifies all other societies as "less developed". However, this concept is very questionable and there is no justification even to describe societies as "not yet industrialised", because there is no necessity to assume that they have to move towards that direction, and to become like the First World at all. Besides, if we consider the global destabilisations caused by the industrial culture, these changes become very questionable. Secondly, with regard to participation, the mere granting of equal rights is not sufficient. In reality, when confronted with the industrial culture, indigenous people are exposed to a bias of dominance. In such a constellation, chances are not distributed equally, since thinking and acting of those concerned are determined by the position of superiority on the one side and the impact of dominance on the other side. Therefore, it has to be ensured that indigenous people can make decisions free from the social pressure of globalisation and that they have the chance to maintain cultural identity. Unless there is mutual respect on the full scale of interaction, we hardly have a chance to escape the effects of dominance. Therefore, becoming aware of those positions and having an honest discourse about the situation are the first steps towards a solution.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,