

Heltera Hermios

Fri
May 22nd
Afternoon

(6)

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

INDIGENOUS STATEMENT

STATEMENT BY
THE OBSERVER DELEGATION OF MARSHALL ISLANDS

DELIVERD BY MR. HELTERA HERMIOS

DIRECTOR GENERAL, NORTHERN ISLANDS RATAK KOBAMARON
ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT OF THE MARSHALL ISLAND

UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES
EIGHTH SESSION ON AGENDA ITEM 6: SIX UNITED NATIONS
AGENCIES AND FUNDS OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATION HIGH
COMMISSIONER

NEW YORK, 22 MAY 2009

ENNAN KO JEN OBSERVER DELEGATION EO JEN REPUBLIC EO AN
MARSHALL ISLANDS

RI KEANG EO ILO ENNAN IN MR. HELTERA HERMIOS DIRECTOR
GENERAL, RATAK CHAIN, RATAK KOBAMARON ORGANISATIONS IM
KIEN EO AN REPUBLIC EO AN MARSHALL ISLANDS
UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM RALITOK EO KIN
INDIGENOUS ISSUES RALITOK DETTAN ILO UNIN KENONO 6: UN
FUNDING AGENCIES KO JILJINO ILO OFFICE EO AN UN HIGH
COMMISSIONER

NEW YORK, 22 MAY 2009

RATAK KOBAMARON, REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS INDIGENOUS

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Greeting,

First, I like to acknowledge thy Father God heaven, the creator, and his Son Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior, and Spirit of the living God who is here with us today.

On behalf of the Grand father Iroijlaplap Rimios Hermios, Ratak Koba Maron Organization traditional leaders and the Government of Marshall Islands like to acknowledge the member of the United Nation General Council, the members of the diplomatic to the United Nation, Honorable chairperson and the 8th Session Permanente Forum committee, and Honorable fellow indigenous people representative at this meeting ladies and gentleman.

Today, Indigenous peoples of low lying islands face serious challenges to their existence and are in danger of disappearing. However, these efforts to address these issues must not be limited to expert meetings or conferences, but the solutions must extend to our communities on the ground.

It is therefore that Indigenous Peoples call upon the United Nation Funding Agencies such as: Food Agriculture Organization, World Bank, International Fund Agriculture Development, United Nations Development Programmer, United Nations Population Funds, and Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat as well as National Governments to provide financial assistance for food security, water security, and the creation of new productive industries that build a local economy, and provide a measure of self-determination for our organization community. On behalf of the Republic of the Marshall Islands government and my organization, we are surely humble ourselves and call upon United Nation Funding Agencies to assist in the implementation of new sustainable technologies that provide adaptation measures to protect the islands and atolls infrastructure, housing, and people from the threat of climate related disasters.

On behalf of the Indigenous Peoples of the Marshall Islands, we plead for the support of the global community to implement programs in practical agriculture, aquaculture, infrastructure development, and shore protection that have regional applicability and scalability.

Recommendations:

Training and Capacity-building are key components of all activities. Hopefully every year, we will receive the OHCHR indigenous fellows at International Labour Office Headquarters, and attend any training course for specific target group at regional, national and local level and as it made on behalf of the PEOPLE, also to renewed willingness to build relationship at home and international area. There will be time of know that we won't always agree on everything but our relationship will be tested and will evolve more and more, on what can we discuss the issues in an open respectfully way. The key activities of the program are:

- Contribution to international processes such as the United Nation Permanent Forum on the Indigenous Issues, Interagency coordination
- Capacity building for indigenous people organizations, community based organizations, governments and social partners at both international, national and local levels
- Support to regional initiatives in pacific region with the commission on Human and People' Rights.
- Promotion of the rights and improvement of the social economic situation of the indigenous peoples in selected countries
- Promoting the rights and reducing poverty of the Indigenous population
- Indigenous population shall enjoy the full measure of human right fundamental freedoms without hindrance or discrimination Article 3(1), ILO Convention No. 169

Thank you very much.

Submitted respectfully,

R.Heltera Hermios

Director General, Ratak Koba Maron Organization, RMI

National Conservation Officer, Department RMI E.P.A.

Youth Pastor, Rita Faith Assembly of God Church, Majuro, RMI