

## WORKING GROUP ON INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

### Agenda Item 4.b

Intervention by Françoise Hampson



Mr Chairperson,

I should first like to apologise for my late arrival and to thank you for your words of welcome. Under this agenda sub-item, I should like to make a very brief intervention.

There are many cases worldwide where individual States, groups of States, UN specialised agencies and, on occasion, even the United Nations itself are taking economic measures in relation to another State on account of the policies, practices and actions of its Government. Leaving to one side the question of the legitimacy of such pressure, the measures are designed either to deter what is claimed is bad behaviour or to encourage good behaviour. Indeed, the State may give effect to certain measures at the insistence of, for example, the IMF or the World Bank. The behaviour in question is not attributable to or the responsibility of the indigenous population. The indigenous population is powerless to prevent the bad behaviour.

In these circumstances, it is important that States taking such action should ensure that the indigenous population is not in any way adversely affected. Where assistance is already being provided, it should continue to be provided, where that is only to the benefit of the indigenous population. Where assistance is not currently being provided, States and agencies should remember that they can seek to give credibility to their claim that they do not wish to harm indigenous populations by initiating assistance, in collaboration with the indigenous populations themselves, to the benefit of those people. That will in no way undermine the measures being taken against the government of the State.

Where an indigenous population is being adversely affected by measures being taken against a government or measures taken by a government on account of such pressure, the adverse consequences to the indigenous population should be notified, as a matter of urgency, to the Special Rapporteur and also to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in order that the latter may notify the UN Secretary General.

Thank you.