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Item 5: Study on the role of languages and culture in the promotion and protection of the rights and identity of indigenous peoples.

Intervention presented by Ghazali Ohorella
Tabea Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Members of the ~~Permanent Forum~~ ^{EXPERT MECHANISM},

Representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Governments,

Mr. Chair,

We take this opportunity to present a brief intervention on this agenda item.

Indigenous Peoples have rich and diverse cultures based on a profound relationship with our land and natural resources, we ourselves as a part of nature and custodians of our lands. Which is the basis for culture, identity, and the very lives of Indigenous Peoples. Article 25 of the Declaration asserts that Indigenous Peoples have the right maintain and strengthen our distinctive relationship to our lands, water and to uphold our responsibilities for future generations:

We and the many Indigenous Peoples in this room agree, that culture defines us as a Peoples and is of crucial importance to our identity as a Peoples, and makes every individual intertwined with the Peoples, so ~~it~~ ^{culture} is not just about songs and dances:

1. It is about our process, it states our decision making- and other processes that we have lived and loved since time immemorial.
2. It is about how we exist, not just the ways and means of our livelihood, but also how we resist against the tyranny of colonial powers, whom in many cases force assimilation, as in our case Indonesia by prohibiting our traditional languages, outcasting the Indigenous Alifuru, and hunting those who fight to regain the independence of Maluku (RMS).
3. It is about how we see the world, how we interconnect with our lands, air, waters, flora and fauna, and how we are to sustainable

share this World with our fellow humans, and deliver it to future generations.

4. It is about how we exercise the Declaration, by primarily using our traditional language rather than our lingua franca, by primarily using our traditional educational systems rather than the governmental, to distribute, discuss, promote and protect our rights.

We, the People of Maluku as many other Indigenous Peoples have been discriminated in our cultural practices, for example on May 15th, on this day the people of Maluku commemorate their national hero Thomas 'Pattimura' Matulessy, which Indonesia appropriated as its holiday but used by the people of Maluku to our own benefit, cloaked under this holiday we are able to express our national aspirations.

The Indonesian government orchestrated several acts of aggression in our cultural procession, in which thousands of Maluku natives participated. Along the way people were pelted with rocks by non-Indigenous persons, without any activity or intervention from the disproportional present Indonesian Army and Police, which culminated into 55 wounded mostly caused by the blast of a hand grenade.

There are many more recent cases of cultural discrimination and limitations, but due to the time constraint, and in respect of the mandate of the EMRIP we will restrain from enumerating and elaborating these cases.

In closing we recommend that the Expert Mechanism:

1. Urge upon the States to revise any domestic laws and procedures that impose limitations on Indigenous cultures, laws and procedures which are not in accordance with international human rights, such as Article 46 of the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Matebulu,

Thank you Mr. Chair