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Item 6
23 April
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Rapanui Parliament statement

Seventh Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues-April 2008-New York, NY

Item-6

Topic-Rapa Nui versus – State Government of Chile

Madam Chair

Distinguish Representatives

The historical approval of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People validates the tireless struggle of Indigenous people worldwide for the recognition of their rights, identities as people, their culture and their heritage.

The declaration it is in deed a great achievement. However, its true lasting value will depend, not only on our collective ability to translate it into substantive and sustainable actions, more importantly it is in the effective vindication of our rights to our lands, territory, and resources.

Poverty of Indigenous people is intimately link to economic, social, political and cultural marginalization.

Therefore, for us to pursue our self - sustainable development, we have to enforce the right to permanent sovereignty over our lands, territories, and natural resources.

Decisions and developments initiatives in our territories have to be led with our principles according to our needs.

Today, our survival as Indigenous peoples depends entirely on our natural resources and bio-diversity.

For example, the Rapa Nui people are facing the threat of extinction; we have a fragile ecosystem, which cannot sustain the overwhelming population influx of uncontrolled migration of mainland Chileans, caused by the colonialism of Chile. This is critical to the survival of Rapa Nui, and timely action is of the essence.

As custodians, our rights have to be acknowledged and support our capacity and capability to manage our territories in a sustainable way.

The Rapa Nui Parliament request to the Forum to oppose more migration to Rapa Nui by Continental Chilean, this issue threaten the very existent and security of the Rapa Nui Culture.

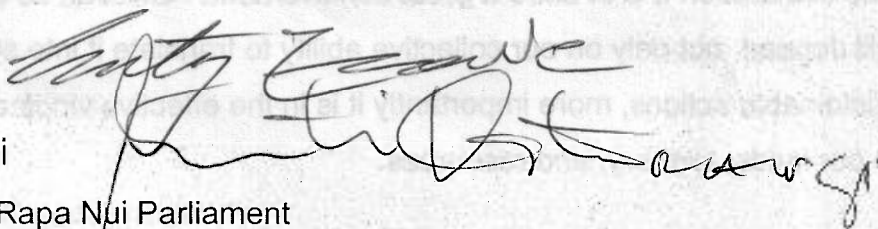
Erity Teave

Santi Hitorangi

Members of the Rapa Nui Parliament

Members of the Pacific Concern Resource Center with ECOSOC Status

Members of the Pacific Caucus at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature, 'Erity Teave', is written in a cursive style. The second signature, 'Santi Hitorangi', is also in cursive and appears to be written over the first signature. Both signatures are positioned to the right of their respective printed names.