



STATEMENT

BY

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PRESIDENT
AMERINDIAN ACTION MOVEMENT OF GUYANA**

ON

**AGENDA ITEM #8
CONSOLIDATED REPORT ON EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES AND THEIR IMPACT ON
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

NEW YORK

MAY 29, 2013

Item #8: Consolidated report on extractive industries and their impact on indigenous peoples.

Mr. Chairman,

I am representing the Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG), an indigenous NGO and I wish to say thank you for allowing me to make this presentation for the very first time since the evolution of the yearly sessions of the UNPFII at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Permit me Mr. Chairman before I focus on the Agenda Item to refer to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014 which my NGO fully supports since it is a strong initiative which should provide an effective action plan to address indigenous issues in a prompt and efficient manner.

Mr. Chairman, from an NGO perspective, my assessment is that Guyana's indigenous peoples are proud practitioners of their human rights enshrined in Article 149 of Guyana's constitution and the Amerindian Act No. 6 of 2006 which provides for self-determination, good governance and FPIC which are practiced in the more than 160 indigenous villages, communities and settlements in Guyana. This is currently so with Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy and Guyana's REDD+ Programme where there are ongoing consultations and participation with indigenous peoples. Therefore the joint statement made by the Guyanese organization of indigenous peoples and the Amerindian Peoples Association on Friday 24th at this forum is a mere deception designed to mislead this 12th Session of the Permanent Forum on the situation of Guyana's indigenous peoples. Mr. Chairman, in relation to extractive industries, while

States have absolute ownership of precious metals, the indigenous communities of Guyana are empowered by Sections 48-53 of the Amerindian Act No. 6 of 2006 to manage these resources found on their village lands and more specifically, to grant permission or consent to both indigenous and non-indigenous miners to conduct mining activities on their village lands.

Mr. Chairman, indigenous peoples in Guyana are also engaged in the extractive industry where gold and diamond mining is concerned and where the proceeds of such mining activities on indigenous village lands are channeled towards village development.

Finally Mr. Chairman, in relation to the threats against indigenous communities by the extractive industries in Guyana, I therefore wish to say that such threats are non-existent since indigenous peoples are the managers of the mineral resources found on their lands.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.

Peter Persaud
President of the Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana