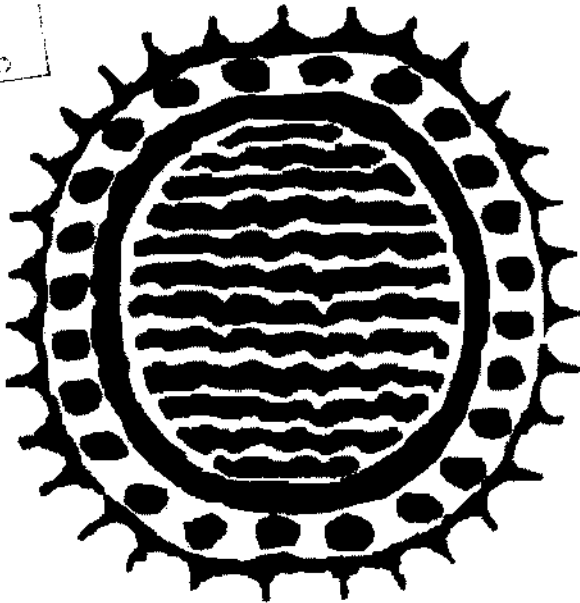
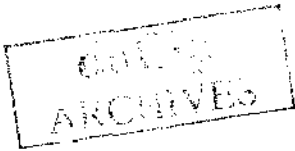


UN PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES



COBASE
Cooperativa Tecnico
Scientifica di Base
Italy

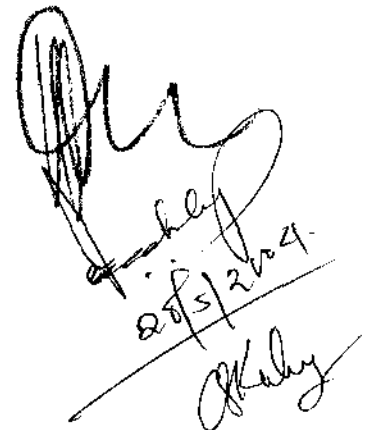
***Poverty
Knowledge
Diversity as
a resource
All World
Knowledge is
contained in
Cultural Diversity***

"Traditional knowledge to eradicate poverty"
Collective Statement

By COBASE, Indian Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples North East Zone, Rural Development Society, Association of Nepalese Indigenous Nationalities Journalists, Roje Eshanshali, Tinhinan, Makak Maku, Indian Young Professionals Foundation, Associaciacao das Mulheres Indigenas do Centro d'Oeste Paulista, Associaciacao Avaetè Guarani Kaiavà e Erena de Dourados, Threatened Indigenous Peoples Society, Masai Women Organization, Foundation For Indigenous Americans of Anasazi Heritage, Ecuadorian Indigenous Peoples Legal Support Office in America (DEPIEA)

Third Session
United Nations Permanent Forum
on Indigenous Issues - May 2004

Item : 5
Future work of the forum


20/5/2004
Kaly

Mr Chairman,

Cultural diversity is an intrinsic quality that cannot be set aside by humanity. It is a metahistorical quality that characterizes human groups in their environmental, social and productive relationships.

The ancient nature of peoples that have reached our times through a strenuous defense of their own cultural identity is the proof of the scientific validity of cultural diversity in the general context of the economy of life. According to this vision we submit to the attention of the forum the COBASE project "Poverty Knowledge. Diversity as resource" with the slogan: "All World Knowledge is contained in Cultural Diversity".

Cultural Diversity, including Linguistic Diversity, is the instrument, the means, the art or technique of existence in which humanity establishes relationships with Environmental Diversity and perceives it, gains knowledge of it, nurtures it and makes it grow.

We propose that the subject of the traditional knowledge, the cultural diversity and the recovery of the traditional techniques for food production and environmental management will become one of the most significant and fundamental subjects of Poverty Eradication, Food Security, Development Cooperation, Sustainable Development and biodiversity programs.

Furthermore we ask the Forum to evaluate the opportunity to make use of the document "Draft Resolution of Rome: Guidelines for the Protection of Cultural Diversity", the object of which is the establishment of a Convention for the Protection of Cultural Diversity and to refer the UNESCO declaration on "Cultural Diversity".

One of its main objectives is indeed to increase sensitivity as to benefits that can derive from valorizing and considering cultural diversity as a foundational resource for a sustainable society and for harmonious living, based on the recognition and respect of human rights.

Mr Chairman,

we think that the future of the forum should take into account the great contribution that indigenous peoples and traditional knowledge could make in fighting the poverty inside the framework of the Millenium Development Goals.

We are aware that the process we face is a complex and articulated one. We trust, however, that, in the future, the issues of Indigenous Peoples may be taken into consideration in a context which is wider than the one of Human Rights, namely a context of Cultural Diversity rights to fight poverty and reaching cultural well being.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.