

Statement

Thank you chair.

My name is Claudius Sanford representing the Kalinago Tribe on the island of Dominica.

To date my tribe is the only tribe living on a reservation in the entire Caribbean archipelago.

Our population stands about 3000. Our land area from 1903 is fixed at 3700 acres.

Our political system has survived and our community is governed by a chief and council.

However, the prescription and proscription of our rules, regulation and economic survival is matted to the wimps and fancies of state government.

The government of Dominica ratified the ILO 169 in 2002 and the UN Declaration on the right of Indigenous people (UNDRIP) in 2007, a semblance of action to show conformity to international protocols.

To date these agreements has not been enacted into the national constitution.

Our appeal for greater urgency of action towards implementation has been ignored.

While these conventions remain on the shelves in government buildings, our identity is continuously used to lure international assistance to the country. In the end only the mere minimal amounts filters down to the needs of our tribe, where the needs are dire.

I refer here to two outstanding examples, the Venezuelan Fund (2007) and the World Bank - Indigenous Peoples Plan Housing Recovery Project (2018).

These funds, made on behalf of the Kalinago people were received and expense by the state with little or no consultation with the tribe. This point to the dire need for self-determination (article 3, UNDRIP) as a key factor for the cultural and socio-economic sustainability of our tribe.

In in this regard I ask EMRIP to consider an outreach mission to the state of Dominica to provide capacity to the state towards the implementation of the UNDRIP and ILO 169 into national law. I would say that in principle the government and the opposition ~~may have~~ the will. It is my opinion, as we collectively seek solutions, EMRIP can show them the way.

Thank you for the opportunity

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Indicate