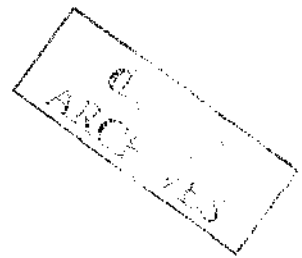


Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Third session
New York, 10-21 May 2004
Mandated area: Future Work of the PFII



**Recommendations made by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy,
Six Nations Grand River**

I am a proud participant and a representative of the Chiefs and Clanmothers of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy at this 3rd Permanent Forum held in our traditional territory.

I thank my Indigenous brothers and sisters of the world for coming together with One Mind, One Heart and One Body.

We have many issues in common. One, we are sovereign nations. Two, we strive to preserve our cultures and languages. Three, in spite of all odds, we still teach our children to believe in a better tomorrow. We, the Indigenous Nations of the world are living with very little resources while the "member States" in a developing world are living off of our lands, resources and heritage.

We make the following two recommendations:

- 1) If the UN is serious in including Indigenous Peoples at this forum and reflecting equality with our peoples, we recommend to the Permanent Forum that the United Nations must reflect our status and context as Nations, Peoples and Governments.
- 2) Until Indigenous Peoples' status and their full and effective participation are guaranteed at the United Nations, at all stages, no action should be taken by the UN or any of its Working Groups or other entities without that status.

We thank the Permanent Forum for recognizing our ancestor, Deskaheh in its public relations materials. And we'd also like to thank Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, who recognized the importance and leadership of Deskaheh during his presentation at the opening ceremony.

Beginning in 1922, Deskaheh tried to bring the issue of Indigenous sovereignty to the League of Nations. However, the process at the League of Nations did not allow Indigenous Nations to be heard. Only a member state could bring any matter of international importance to the attention and intervention of the League.

Deskaheh was able to gain the support of four member states namely, Ireland, Panama, Persia and Estonia; however, through political interventions by Canada and Great Britain, those allied member states were unable to assist Deskaheh. Our voice, as represented by Deskaheh was never heard at the League of Nations.

Deskaheh, still refusing to not be heard, arranged his own presentation to those who would listen to him. He had to speak out in the streets of Geneva.

Deskaheh's words and actions were so powerful that members of the House of Commons of Canada were worried. So much so, that he was exiled from Canada and he died in New York State.

Nothing has changed since Deskaheh tried to make his presentation at the League of Nation. We are still sitting in the back of the room without a seat with "member states" and we only have three minutes to present. I am considered to be presenting as an "individual", despite the fact that I am presenting the collective voice of my people.

The Haudenosaunee are still a sovereign nation and will continue to strive for nationhood recognition in Canada, the United States and at the United Nations.