

Friday 18 PM #174
Denmark

New York May 18, 2007

Madame Chairperson,

Prof. Rudolph Stambhagen,

I wish to thank the Special Rapporteur for his most pertinent presentation to the Forum. It is promising to learn about the SR's active dialogue with Governments on the human rights situation of ~~the~~ indigenous peoples, but less promising to hear about the actual situation on the ground. However there is only one ^{way} forward and that is to continue and intensify the dialogue.

The key instruments in today's struggle towards promoting the legitimate rights and interests of the world's IP's are in our view: the present Forum as the coordinating UN-body on ~~the~~ indigenous issues; ²⁾ the Human Rights Council in particular through the Special Rapporteur and ³⁾ the Declaration on the Rights of IP's setting out a general framework and guidance for action by Governments and by the UN agencies, funds and programmes working in this field.

The Special Rapporteur reports directly to the Human Rights Council. It is however, important that the SR ^{rapporteur} also is present each year at the formal session of the Forum to report on his activities and results achieved. In other words it is crucial that the Forum maintains a close relationship with the SR, ^{so} that the Rapporteur act as a kind of liaison between the Human Rights Council in Geneva and the Forum here in New York. That corresponds to the present situation and my delegation strongly favours that arrangement to continue and, if possible, be further elaborated through the convening from time to time of workshops or roundtable discussions on specific human rights matters with the participation of members of the Human Rights Council, members of the Forum, individual experts and, of course, the Special Rapporteur.

Madame Chairperson,

In conclusion I wish to confirm my delegation's intention to press on ~~together with the many friends of the~~ for the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of IP's before the end of the present 61st session of the GA ~~preferably by consensus but if not by a vote affirming those States which cannot support the Declaration to make any necessary reservations.~~ ^{other} together with the many friends of the Declaration.