

May 24 Am # 314

Statement made orally by Eduardo Aguiar de Almeida, Member of the UNPFII in 24 May 2007, at the morning session – agenda item 9 “Future work of the Forum including emerging issues” – Conference Room 2 UN Headquarters, New York.

THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR,

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SOME VERY GENERAL COMENTS ON ATITUDES AND ARGUMENTS WE HAVE WITNESSED IN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF AFRICA, ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA AND AFTER LISTENING CAREFULLY TO SEVERAL STATEMENTS FROM MANY DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES FROM STATES, AND ALSO FROM INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ORGANIZATIONS AND EXPERTS COLLEAGUES FROM THE PERMANENT FORUM. IT HAS BEEN A PRECIOUS PUBLIC DIALOGUE THAT SHOULD BE CONTINUED AND DEEPENED.

THIS IS MY LAST SESSION AS MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT FORUM. CERTAINLY IT HAS BEEN A PRIVILEGE FOR ME, AND I TRIED TO LEARN AND CONTRIBUTE AS MUCH AS I COULD, WITHIN MY LIMITATIONS.

I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO DETAILS OR MENTION PARTICULAR STATE MEMBERS. JUST TO EXPRESS SOME FEELINGS.

AS PART OF A CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE, WE SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRESS OUR SPECIE HAS MADE IN THE LAST SIX OR SO DECADES. THESE “HOLY” – IF I MAY SAY – INSTITUTION THAT HOSTS US HERE HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

OBTVIOUSLY, I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT MATERIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS, INCLUDING SOME OF THEIR HARZARDOUS AND ALARMING CONSEQUENCES.

IT IS TRUE. LETS RECOGNIZE THAT WE HAVE MADE SOME IMPORTANT PROGRESS IN **PREVENTING WAR**, IN **OVERCOMING COLONIALISM** – AT LEAST IN ITS CLASSICAL PATTERN - IN **IMPROVING RIGHTS, LAWS AND POLICY IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS**, IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF PROMOTING JUSTICE AND WELFARE FOR “ALL” – AT LEAST IN THEORY AND RHETORIC. THIS PARTICULAR EVENT, AND THE **UNPFII** ITSELF IS AN ELOQUENT TESTIMONY OF WHAT I AM TRYING TO SAY. JUST A FEW DECADES AGO SUCH A MEETING WOULD HAVE BEEN INCONCIEVABLE.

**BUT**, MADAM CHAIR, **MEANWHILE**,

- WE HAVE FAILED TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS OF **PEACE**, AND TO PUT AN END TO MASSIVE VIOLENCE;
- IN MANY COUNTRIES, WE HVE FAILED TO PREVENT MARGINALIZATION AND EXCLUSION ON A MASS SCALE;

**AND**, MADAM CHAIR,

WE ARE STILL FAILING – IN MOST PARTS OF THE WORLD - TO OVERCOME **COLONIALISM**, IN ITS IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS, **RACISM** OR **ETHNIC PREJUDICES**.

OUR DOMINANT CONCEPTS OF **DEMOCRACY**, **HUMAN RIGHTS**, **JUSTICE**; OUR “CLASSIC MODERN” **MODELS AND CONCEPTS OF STATE**, **SOVEREIGNTY**, **NATIONAL SECURITY** AND “POWER BALANCE”, AND OTHERS RELATED, ARE NO LONGER SUITABLE WITH OR FOR THE ACCHEIVEMENT OF **PEACE**, **HUMAN RIGHTS** AND WHAT WE MAY EVER TRANSLATE INTO **JUSTICE**. ASSUMING THESE ARE TRUE UNIVERSAL VALUES.

AS WE ARE UNDOUBTLY FACING NEW AND UNPRECEDENTED **PLANETARY EMERGENCIES** – A RESULT OF DISASTROUS MISTAKES IN THE **MANEGEMENT OF WEALTH AND RESOURCES OF A LIMITED PLANET** – WE NEED TO FACE THE CHALENGE OF PROFOUNDLY CHANGING OUR **OLD CONCEPTS** AND **OBSOLETE INSTITUTIONS**. AND SEEK, AT AN INEVITABLY **FASTER PACE**, OUR GOALS OF **PEACE**, **JUSTICE**, **PLURAL “TRUE” DEMOCRACY** AND URGENT **GENUINE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**.

TO FINALIZE, MADAM CHAIR,

WE HUMBLY WISH TO ENCOURAGE STATES THAT HAVE RESISTED SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION, AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, OF THE **DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES** WITHOUT AMENDMENTS, TO REFLECT UPON THEIR FORMAL ARGUMENTS AND ATITUDES, CONSIDERING THE HIGHER VALUES AND THE NEW CHALENGES OF MANKIND.

THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.