

ITEM 12

DINIIPS statement for 4/19

I am Baitzx of the Tsou People, Asia Pacific Islanders speaking for Tsou, TWA, DINIPS, KOIZ.

We call on States and the UN System, including UNESCO, to fulfill the declaration by giving 'due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the Indigenous Peoples concerned' (Article 26, DRIP) to formally title land in a way that continues Indigenous Peoples' sustainable management of use and access to our territories. Special attention is needed to fulfill Article 44 and CEDAW to ensure that indigenous women are able to participate in negotiations for our Free Prior and Informed Consent to our collective Indigenous Peoples' right to sustainable development. We ask the PFII to address ECOSOC Financing for Development processes with attention to incentives for Member States and UN agencies that promote biodiversity of all species, including the diversity of the human species developed by Indigenous Peoples, with attention to empowering women to formalize traditional and modern forms tenure, use, and access of of land, water, and air.

Indigenous Peoples' territories host diverse ecosystems that provide economic, social, spiritual, cultural, and political support to each Indigenous People. Each Indigenous People holds collective title to their ancestral lands, waters, winds, fires, shown by our daily use of our language of the land. Each Indigenous People has a right to collectively protect the functionality of our ecosystems, which depend on the health of contiguous territories. Economic aggression from developers of Indigenous Peoples ecosystems hosted by Indigenous Peoples' territories endangers Indigenous Peoples' economic, social, spiritual, cultural, and political life. DRIP Articles 26, 27, 44 provide an outline for UN Member States to work with Indigenous Peoples to formally codify Indigenous Peoples' title to our territories and our rights to protect our ecosystems of our territories.

However, States lack incentives to uphold the Declaration in practice. In our Island the Golden monkey population was reduced to 5000 10 years ago and classified as endangered species. The Tsou people was about 5000 also and has not increased as the monkey population quadrupled. After 10 years later, the amount of the monkeys increased to twenty thousand, destroying crops that sustain our life. Today animal populations have more protections than Indigenous Peoples.

My Tsou People did not endanger monkeys. We participated sustainably in our ecosystem since time immemorial with traditional protections, and sustainable

economic uses of our territories. However, States did not value our Tsou indigenous economy and misrepresented our participation in our ecological economy, the monkeys became endangered. Now Tsou are more endangered than monkeys.

This loss of biodiversity, including diversity of human Peoples, will accelerate climate change and endanger humanity's survival, including member states. Member state governments will collapse in the face of dwindling food and fresh water supplies, which could be protected by respecting DRIP. If Indigenous Peoples die, all die.