

**The First UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Agenda Item (5): General Statement
Oral Intervention by Mr. Famark Hlawngching
Chin Human Rights Organization**



Mr. Chairman,

Since the inception of our indigenous peoples' struggle in Burma, we have upheld dialogue as an integral part of the democratization process and protection and promotion of human rights; both as an objective and an instrument. In that sense, we are cautiously encouraged by the ongoing talks between the military and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, since October 2000 and cautiously welcomed the unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi. We fully appreciate the efforts of the UN and all countries for it.

Mr. Chairman:

The root causes of problems in Burma are the deprivation of indigenous peoples' rights and the lack of democracy and human rights. Understanding these situation, the UN General Assembly has been urged the SPDC to hold tripartite dialogue since 1994 in which leaders of indigenous peoples, democratic opposition groups and military will participate based on equal footing in order to solve problems in Burma. This resolution was make under "human rights situation in Burma" to promote and protect human rights as all Members States pledge to do so. For implementation of the resolution, the office of Secretary General is assigned.

However, even as talk is going on and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that "... trust building process is over", a situation that is totally incompatible with that atmosphere still prevails in the country. Firstly, we are concerned that military offensives and hostilities against indigenous peoples are still heavily carried on by the Burmese army and over 1,600 political prisoners including 19 MPs remain in jail. Secondly, We are seriously concerned on various forms of human rights violations which are continuing unabated in indigenous peoples' areas. Therefore, the Human Rights Commission has been passed resolution, condemning human rights situation in Burma since 1992.

Since the promotion and protection of human rights is within the mandate of the forum, time is of the essence for indigenous peoples in Burma and we need the good Office of Permanent Forum to help develop the current dialogue between Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the military regime into an irreversible process towards a democratic transition that includes representatives of indigenous peoples in the process. In order to address perspective and aspiration of the indigenous peoples for solving the problems in Burma, I would like to request the Forum to establish "Special Advisory Committee to Secretary General for Burma". And the Special Advisory Committee shall advise the Good Office of the Secretary General as followings;

- (1) That cease military operation and hostilities against indigenous peoples and declare nation-wide cease-fire.
- (2) That release all political prisoners and political parties including arms resistant groups be allowed to engage in normal activities without unnecessary and discriminatory stringent restrictions.
- (3) That formally organize consultations among indigenous leaders from inside and outside the country.
- (4) That formalize the current talks into a substantive political tripartite dialogue.
- (5) That the committee will closely monitor the improvement of dialogue and make recommendation on it

Thank you.