

Statement on the item Health  
The first session of the Permanent Forum  
5/2002



by Hassan IOBalkaissm  
Istma, aitma, azul fllawn

Mr Chairperson,

1. This is the first time I am taking the floor in this session and I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the Permanent Forum.
2. I take the floor on behalf of IPACC (African Indigenous Peoples Coordinating Committee), the world Amazigh Congress ( World Amazigh Association) and the Tamaynut Association, which cooperate with Amazigh Association in Morroco, Tawada. Amazigh Association promotes the establishment of democratic constitution, which would recognize the Amazigh's identity and language as official and guarantee the right to participate in cultural and political life. The majority of African states do not have health care structures. More than 55% of them are living without necessary things, such as water supply, hospitals, schools, and information.
3. Health is a basis of existence. A country, which does not have health care structures, violates human rights. Since the universal proclamation of human rights in 1948, the majority of indigenous peoples have yet to experience international cooperation to develop the necessary means for the protection of their health. Therefore, the following question might be asked to the agencies "what should be done with this Permanent Forum?
4. The members of the Permanent Forum have a responsibility to influence the system of the United Nations and governments to cooperate on the basis of respect to indigenous peoples and establish a partnership and appropriate system of health care with the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives.