



Unrepresented
Nations and Peoples
Organization

WGIP 98/JUNI/13

Commission on Human Rights
Working Group on Indigenous Populations
Sixteenth Session 31 July 1998
Intervention on Item 10
Indigenous Peoples Permanent Forum

Thank you Madame Chair for recognizing UNPO in this important forum where the indigenous peoples of the world meet annually to strive for social justice for their nations. Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) works for the recognition and protection of indigenous identity, culture, environment and human rights. Since its creation in 1991, indigenous peoples coordinate diplomatic and political means to ensure the fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples.

The experience with this ^{6.11} forum illuminates many of the important reasons why the United Nations must create a Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples before dusk sets on the Decade of Indigenous Peoples. UNPO members present urge for establishment and not only consideration on this important instrument for indigenous rights. The Permanent Forum will serve as a sacred space where governments, indigenous people and UN agencies can share knowledge and resources to fulfill the mandate of the UN Charter in our quest for peace and security.

Unfortunately as was noted in the ^{UN} Secretary General's report, there are virtually no mechanisms within the United Nations system which give indigenous peoples an opportunity to be an active participant in the decision-making process on issues relating directly to their daily lives, fundamental freedoms and their future.

Therefore, the UN Permanent Forum must build upon the Vienna Programme of Action establishing a permanent forum where indigenous peoples contribute to coordinate and achieve the aspirations of the UN. The UN WGIP must continue setting standards and assessing the human rights of indigenous peoples in the 21st century. Also, new common steps must be taken with the creation of the Permanent Forum in a decision-making capacity. The credibility of this forum rests in the participation with indigenous peoples being represented equally with government and an important ingredient is allowing indigenous peoples to determine their representation and respecting the traditional process of indigenous culture.

The UNPO members strongly believe that the WGIP is a vital body in the protection of indigenous peoples from future violations. The indigenous peoples believe a permanent forum must be located in a visible position so the UN can be more effective in promoting the human rights of indigenous peoples. It should also be financed in the UN budget and coordinated in the reform strategy of the UN.

The UNPO members also believe a crucial component of the Decade is the adoption of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as it establishes an adequate legal basis for the agenda of this Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples.

Indigenous Peoples know from experience that if there is no permanent forum, indigenous peoples won't be able to reach their quest for justice. Don't allow the Decade to be derailed. In the words of the UN, let's begin building an equal partnership rooted in respect and human rights with the creation of a Permanent Forum in the most pragmatic and hopeful position in the UN.

3) Again, Thank you Madame Daes and brothers and sisters, UNPO hopes to cooperate in the emergence of this endeavor.

Mad WG
+ other participants
us
for allowing to speak.

me + myself as GS, ~~times~~ ^{is} with all
UNPO hopes to cooperate in the
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Finally we would like to add that