

UN PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES
12th SESSION
AGENDA ITEM 8 - FUTURE WORK

STATEMENT BY LES MALEZER, FOUNDATION FOR ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER
RESEARCH ACTION (FAIRA)

[Check Against Delivery]

Mr Chairperson

I begin by stating that FAIRA welcomes the contributions by States in this forum which support of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We appreciate the responses provided this morning on the decolonization of the Indigenous Peoples in the Pacific region.

In particular we welcome the statement supported by the Australian Government, the Australian Human Rights Commission and the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples which contains the commitment to increase awareness of the Declaration in policy development, program implementation and service delivery as a way to embed the Declaration in how business is done.

However this morning we are alarmed to hear an opinion of the government of USA that Indigenous Peoples do not enjoy the same right of self-determination as all other peoples.

We note that PP2 and Article 2 of the Declaration affirm that Indigenous Peoples are equal to all other peoples; and that Article 4 states that all doctrines, policies and practices based on or advocating superiority of peoples are racist, scientifically false, legally invalid, morally condemnable and socially unjust.

Are we to conclude the USA no longer supports the Declaration or is the the USA saying it only supports existing policies which belong to the USA alone? We hope that the Permanent Forum will address the discrepancies raised by the USA statement.

I now turn attention to the matter of future work of the Permanent Forum. FAIRA is interested in the recommendations presented by the Arctic Council and would like those recommendations to be considered further. In addition we make the following observations and / or recommendations.

- Too many recommendations remain unaddressed or not implemented
- Too much self-interest by PFII members in studies / reporting, too little influence by IP delegations. Studies should be kept to a minimum and should attend to global issues
- There is too much overlap on human rights issues between PFII and EMRIP
- The Permanent Forum should give greater attention to land rights, resource rights, natural environment and economic sustainability
- More UN Agencies must recognise Indigenous Peoples as peoples, and should ensure that IP issues are internalised into there structures
- There is no ECOSOC engagement on Indigenous Peoples issues - States must consider and discuss issues from the Permanent Forum in ECOSOC and make resolutions as appropriate

Thank you, Mr Chairperson