

MICHAEL WILLIAMS
NORTH RUPUNUNI DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT BOARD (NRDDB)

Thanks Mr.Chairman,(Macushi thanks and appreciation was given)I thank you for giving me this opportunity to present my statement. My name is Michael Williams from South America ,Guyana. I am here representing two of the nine tribes/nations Macushi & Wapishana indigenous people found in the western part of my country called North Rupununi. I am the chairman of a true Community Base Organisation, a non Government Organisation called the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) representing 16 villages and over 5,000 Macushi and Wapishana people. We are not affiliated to any political party but from time to time support Government initiatives and programs as we see fit for the developments of our people.The people of the North Rupununi have a good working relationship with the government of Guyana and other indigenous organizations of our country. Our organization NRDDB (Macushi & Wapishana People) happens to be the only Non Government Organisation embarking on Community Monitoring Reporting and Verification programme” CMRV” which is linked to the National Monitoring Reporting and Verification”MRV” programme an initiative since the signing of an agreement between the Government of Guyana and Norway for Low Carbon Development Strategy” LCDS”.

Mr Chairman I have listened attentively over the few days of this forum to issues and problems facing the Indigenous peoples of this world and we all face almost the same challenges created by the modern development programs and projects as we live where all the natural resources are still intact. We face these challenges because sometimes Government failure to interact with the indigenous peoples or organisations. To my mind as representative of the Macushi people sometimes it is also the non interest and failure to participate by the indigenous people themselves after no proper consultations. For us to achieve our Millennium Development Goals for 2015 there needs to a continuous consultations between the United Nations Permanent Forum Members, Governments and the indigenous Peoples and all other stakeholders and try to implement as much as possible the United Nations Declarations on the rights of Indigenous People and ILO 169 ,as we prepare for the upcoming World conference. We have to keep in mind that the indigenous peoples have settled and live in remote regions and interior parts of all the countries in the world and to practice Free, Prior and Informed Consent there is a big cost that challenges our ego to achieve our goals for 2015 ,which means each one of us here representing all the other indigenous people and those at home will have to plan constructively, positively and make every effort to overcome our challenges.

Mr. Chairman in closing I would like to thank you for allowing me to present my statement as one of the 24 persons sponsored through the United Nations Voluntary Fund to be here. Once again thank you.

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