

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues-Sixteenth Session
NY, 24 April- 5 May 2017
Discussion on the theme "Tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples"

Topic: Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Intervention by: Fiji Indigenous Peoples Foundation.

Speaker: Nemani Ramasei

1. We pay respect to the Lenape Peoples- whose sovereign inheritance and ancestral grounds is the hilly island of Mana-hatta.
2. We also acknowledge the work of the UN Permanent Forum and its advisers, culminating in the zero draft of consultation process associated with indigenous peoples participation at the General Assembly. It is a starting position.
3. This however, must be harmonized to provide tangible outcomes through the collaborative efforts of States and Indigenous Peoples. Further, it must be relevant and implementable.
4. With no permanent participatory arrangements in place, this is an enormous undertaking; as there are 400 million indigenous peoples globally, comprising 500 distinct tribes. This comprises 5 percent of global population, representing 15 percent of the world's poorest.
5. Some by virtue of history are divided by new State boundaries. For example, the social ramifications of the US wall across Mexico split traditional lands and Peoples on either side. The Nakoda peoples of Southern Alberta, and the Sioux in North Dakota, is similarly partitioned by two States border. To date they maintain continued connection through observance and acknowledgement of customary practices, as testament to the intent of Article 36 of the Declaration. In Fiji, Constitutional mainstreaming of nomenclature pertaining to indigeneity, legally disempower indigenous Fijians by removing exclusive association to it.
6. Operationalizing options and suggested alternative texts under Para 6 of the Zero Draft is a challenge, especially, the appropriate methodologies facilitating the selection process prior to it. We however, can seek guidance from existing mechanisms and defer to existing arrangements such as the representative status of EU nations, which are accorded full status at the G/A, as compared to existing observer status where representation is through agency by member states.

We RECOMMEND the following:

1. That the seven regions under UNPFII be maintained with 2 representatives chosen through regional preparatory meetings: where "one State- one vote" rule must be employed during nominations at regional deliberations.
2. The creation of a separate category for indigenous peoples in the General Assembly, which would allow indigenous peoples to participate without defining themselves as member States.
3. The removal of proxy participation through agency of other member States by the 19th Session. Instead, the UN must ensure the grant of full participatory status with all procedural rights accorded to Indigenous Peoples at the General Assembly.

Thank you

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Speaker: Mr. Nemani Ramase

1. Taumada na vakavinavinaka kina yavu o Lanape, na sau kai taukei ni yavu tabu ni yanuyanu vei-ulunivanua o Manahatta.

2. Gole talega na vakavinavinaka kina cakacaka ni Matabose levu ni UN kei ira na dau ni vakasala, ena vuku ni lavelave taumada ni tuvutuva ni cakacaka me baleta na veivosaki taki ni noda dabe ka lewe ni bose nai taukei ni vanua ena loma matabose levu ni General Assembly. Oqo e sa qai matai ga ni kalawa.

3. Ia ena bibi me duavata ka vakanananu ni vakasama oqo ena vuku ni cakacaka vata ni Matanitu kei na Matanitu Taukei. E na uasivi sara me na yaga ka rawa ni cakacakataki ka qaravi me laurai votu na veisau.

4. Me vaka ni sega ni dua nai tuvutuva matata esa tiko rawa, ena sasaga levu na sasaga oqo- vakabibi ni 400 na milioni na levu itaukei ni vanua e vuravura, ka umani kina e 500 na vanua yavu duidui. Oqo e 5 ga na pasede ni wiliwili kece kei vuravura, ia e oka e loma na 15 na pasede ni taukei ena vakatagede ni bula dravudravua.

5. Na bai takoso nei Merika ena vualiku kei Mexico e vidai ira na kenai taukei dina kei na kedra qele. E vaka kina oira na wekada mai na ceva kei Alberta ka ra veiwekani kei ira nai taukei Sioux mai na vualiku kei Dakota ka ra tawasei ena vuku ni yalayala vou ni Matanitu duidui. Ia e ra duavata tu ena vuku ni tovo kei nai valavla vakavanua ka salavata kei na vakanananu taumada ni tabana e 36 ena veiyalayalati ni UNDRIP. O ira nai taukei mai Viti era sa suguti ena nodra dodonu ni vakayagataka na vosa "Fijian" ena yavu ni Vakavulewa me rawa ni vakayagataki rabailevu ka oka kina oira na veitamata duidui eso ka sega ni lewe ni matanitu vanua se itaukei.

6. Na vakatutu ena tuvutuva ka volai ena wase ono ni vola taumada e bolebole levu, vakabibi na lewai matua ni veilesi mai nai wasewase matanitu taukei duidui eso. Ia e rawa ni da vuli mai na tuvutuva eso ka vakayagataki oti. Ena vinaka me na taurivaki nai tuvutuva ni mata vakaturi ni matanitu mai Urope-oya na kena soli na dodonu raraba ni lewe ni bose levu ni General Assembly ka sega ni yalani me vaka beka na dodonu ga ni vakarorogo ka sega kina na vakaitavi.

Oqo na neitou vakatutu:

1. Me vakadeitaki na vitu nai wasewase duidui ni matanitu tauke, ia me digitaki mai e rua na mata ena vei veiwasewase ka me lawatu ni veivakaturi oya me dua na matanitu ka dua na nona digidigi.
2. Me vakadonui e dua na vakatagede ni lewe ni bose levu nodra na lewe ni Matanitu Vanua kina bose levu ni General Assembly, ka na vakatara me ra tugalala ka sega kina ni gadrevi na veiwekani kei ira na matanitu veilutaki
3. Na kena boko na vakaitavi kina boselevu ena ruku ni mata vakaturi mai vei ira na Matanitu veiwekani ena ka 19th ni boselevu kacivi ka tarava. Me na veivakadeitaki na bose levu kei vuravura na kena soli soli na dodonu kei na galala ni vakaitavi ena loma ni bose levu ena General Assembly nodra mata nai taukei ni veiwasewase e vitu

Vinaka Vakalevu