

Presented by → **Joint Statement of**
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AT THE UN-PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES
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Agenda Item No.3(c): Follow-up on Goals 1 and 2

Madam Chairperson, Distinguished members of the UN-Permanent Forum, Honourable Government Representatives, Inter Government Agencies, and Fellow Indigenous Participants from around the world.

This statement mentions about the present situation of the indigenous people and describes in brief some reasons for their grave situation and finally includes some suggestions how their situation can be improved.

Obliviously the worldwide awareness regarding the deteriorating situation of the indigenous peoples has increased during the last years because of the joint efforts of the UN-Working Group, Permanent Forum and the organisations of indigenous peoples. However, the situation of indigenous peoples in many/most of the countries of the third world and particularly in South-Asia and Africa has continued to deteriorate in all spheres of life in spite of considerable efforts made by the UN and other organisations for their protection and development. The situation of Africa has been a main focus during the G8 meeting of the highly industrialised and rich nations in July 2005 in Scotland. Economic progress being made in China, India and in south-east Asia has been often highlighted since months. In reality, the situations of the indigenous peoples in both of the continents are somewhat similar that they are being marginalised and even struggling for their very survival.

Therefore:

1) It can be concluded that it is not sufficient to give aid/assistance for or in the name of indigenous peoples. It has to be monitored thoroughly in international standard from the very beginning including the genuineness of the organisations or persons involved, because most of the aid has not reached them. Worldwide international gangsters are operating taking great risk of punishment even for relatively small amount of monetary gain in drug dealing, black money laundering and smuggling etc. Only in case of misuse of development aid no punishment or court trial is assured. No wonder that most of the aid/assistance has been misused.

2) Lessons have to be learned from the failure of the past. For this purpose thorough investigations and research programs are required at international level regarding the development aid policies and implementations systems in order to make the necessary corrections and to ensure better results.

3) World-wide family planning and protection of forests must get top priority in all development considerations. (There is no hope of survival for a large number of indigenous peoples without these measures.) In many countries the very habitat/livelihood is being taken away from the indigenous peoples and they are being replaced by the dominant society because of uncontrolled population explosion. The struggle for resources has already started.

4) There are hundreds of very small groups of indigenous peoples who are extremely endangered to be vanished within a very short period in Asia, Africa and in South America. Therefore, human community must pay special attention for them and enable a very urgent program in order to protect them.

5) Depriving indigenous peoples and similar minorities of their very lively hood without adequate and real compensation as well as protection should be considered as a crime against humanity so that it can be brought to justice in international court. It is the moral obligation of the human community to consider the cases of such minorities who are unable to articulate if we want to be honest to our own commitment for human rights for all human beings.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson and my brothers and sisters for your kind attentions and I hope that the suggestions find sympathetic considerations and can be incorporated in the one or the other millennium goals in course of redefining the same, if not already done so.