

**13th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
UN Headquarters, New York, 12 – 23 May, 2014**

Agenda Item 3: Good Governance, Articles 3 – 6 and 46 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Oral Intervention Presented by Yannick Ndoinyo, on behalf of Project Access Global Training Program for Indigenous Peoples 2014; and the Regions from Africa, Asia, Central and South America, the Caribbean; North America and the Pacific including International Indian Treaty Council, Tribal Link, United Confederation of Taino People, Two Fathers International Consultancy Aotearoa NZ, Nepal Federation of Indigenous of Indigenous Nationalities, Kimberly Land Council and organization of Kalina and Lokono Indigenous Peoples in Marojijijine and Cameroon Indigenous Women's Forum

Thank you Madame Chair.

Good governance must provide opportunities for Indigenous Peoples' full and effective participation in decision-making, policy creation and legal systems, the mainstreaming of Indigenous interests in political entities, and the full application by States of international standards including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention 169.

Good governance is grounded in the right to self-determination, a core right of all Peoples and a pre-requisite for the exercise and enjoyment of all other human rights. . It must be inclusive and ensure equality and justice for Indigenous Peoples to achieve our collective aspirations and secure our well-being. In this light, the articles listed in this theme must also be understood and interpreted in light of the UN Declaration as a whole including the preamble.

Good governance requires that States, private corporations, and other institutions must respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples to protect our lands, territories and resources, and carry out and continue our own forms of governance in accordance with traditional laws and legal systems without discrimination. Without the full and unqualified implementation of these rights, including the entrenchment of our rights in national constitutions, there is no good governance.

We recognize our Indigenous relatives whom are colonized or under military occupation. Good governance must ensure in accordance with Articles 3 and 6, that Indigenous Peoples to have the right to maintain their own Indigenous nationality. A **State-imposed or colonial nationality** should be optional for the Indigenous Peoples in question.

Therefore, we recommend that the UNPFII maintain a firm stance to guarantee that the UN Declaration, especially the right to self-determination of Indigenous Peoples, be upheld in all international as well as domestic processes and to promote measures to ensure Indigenous Peoples' collective participation all in decision making that effects them.

We also recommend that the UNPFII carry out a study on the relationship between governance and rights to lands and resources of Indigenous Peoples, which are required for the exercise of the rights in question.

Madam Chair, distinguished members of the Forum, representatives of States, NGO's, and UN agencies, we close with affirming one of the most adamant phrases of the

13th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Declaration contained in the preamble which provides the necessary framework, context and understanding for the discussion under this agenda item:

“Bearing in mind that nothing in this Declaration may be used to deny any Peoples their right to self-determination, exercised in conformity with international law”

Thank you Madam Chair.