

Recommendation from Solidarity for Indigenous Papuans West Papua in Indonesia

Submitted by Neles Tandamat Secretary – Solidarity for Indigenous Papuans

Greetings Madam Chair and the Members of the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on behalf of the people of West Papua in Indonesia.

Solidarity for Indigenous Papuans is a network of CSOs and individual activists in Papua and West Papua provinces in Indonesia that aspires to address climate change and human rights issues faced by the people of West Papua.

The people of West Papua welcome the establishment of the Declaration on the Rights of People of African Descent. We would like to make the following comments on Article 4 on the right to self-determination. The people of West Papua do not expect the interpretation of Article 4 to be equal to or in some way similar to Article 3 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. The people of West Papua expect Article 4 to be in line with United Nations Charter on Trusteeship and language that should be similar to UNGA res. 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. This is because in the 1960s some territories and people of African descent were forced into joining other countries based on racism and other prejudices. This arrangement was undemocratic and discriminatory for the people who were affected due to the mistreatment.

We would also like to expect the states of Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific to take ownership of the Declaration because the experiences of the UNDRIP have not been positive in our case. To be precise in our demand, we want decolonization and nothing more or less than that in our case. We recommend the following to be considered by the Permanent Forum for people of African descent;

1. Establish a commission of inquiry into the implementation of United Nations Resolution 1514 (XV) on the granting of independence to colonial peoples and territories to identify the territories that satisfied the resolution yet were not granted independence and recommend the UN General Assembly to complete the unfinished business of decolonization for those territories.
2. We would like the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent to ensure the article on self-determination be clear and not ambiguous on the subject of decolonization and independence for those territories that satisfy resolution 1514 (XV).
3. The Permanent Forum to include Multi-National Companies (MNCs) as compensators of the reparatory justice alongside the state parties

I thank you,

Neles Tandamat Solidarity for Indigenous Papuans.