**17TH SESSION OF THE EXPERT MECHANISM FOR THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES under Item 5: UNDRIP: Interactive dialogue with UNPFII, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and members of the United Nations Treaty Bodies.**

Miss Macy Duxfield (Ngaa Rauru, Te Ātihaunui-a-Papārangi, Ngāi Tahu) on behalf of Pou Tikanga, National iwi Chairs Forum – Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Teenaa koutou e ngaa rangatira, e ngaa iwi taketake o teenei whenua, o te ao. I acknowledge the indigenous peoples of this land and from across the world.

I am a descendant of Ngaa Rauru, Te Ātihaunui-a-Papārangi, and Kāi Tahu tribes of Aotearoa New Zealand. On behalf of the National Iwi Chairs Forum and Ngaa Rangatahi aa Iwi, I thank you for the opportunity to speak to this item.

We thank the Special Rapporteur for his informal visit to Aotearoa in April, and emphasize the importance of his continued engagement and wisdom as we navigate the oppressive agenda of the most overtly racist government that we have seen in decades.

In reflecting on the concerns expressed regarding the UN liquidity crisis during this session, we stress that Indigenous international bodies and instruments MUST be the last to be defunded.

The New Zealand government continues to violate obligations and breach the terms upon which our chiefs allowed their settlement in Aotearoa in 1840, under Te Tiriti o Waitangi - our Treaty with Queen Victoria. For us, UNDRIP is a blueprint for expressing our Treaty rights. Our government is on a mission to breach this sacred agreement across all domains. They have even made comments about undoing the ratification of the NZ commitment to UNDRIP.

We cannot talk about Indigenous rights without speaking of our rights to access, protect, and continue to live in harmony and interdependence with our natural world.

Under urgency and without any checks and measures, our government determined to repeal resource management legislation - which had included provisions requiring decision-makers to give effect to our Treaty, and responsibilities to support intergenerational well-being, and to recognise and uphold the well-being and kinship relationships we have with our land and water.

The Fast Track Consenting Bill enables national and regional infrastructure development to be fast-tracked, without any reference to sustainable resource management, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, or Maori rights and interests in the environment. This extends into any co-governance, rights and interest arrangements we have, or should have across our waterways, Marine and coastal areas.

We should not only be involved in, but actively leading environmental interaction and protection and responses to water, biodiversity and climate change crises, as the holders of the original knowledge and legal systems of our lands.

As a people whose language, cultural practices, knowledge systems and identities are derived from the environment, this attack on the environment is an attack on our very existence.

**As a young person, I am aggrieved by the fact that this is not the future which our elders envisioned for us, to spend our lifetimes reassembling the foundations which they dedicated theirs to building and protecting.**

**We call on the EMRIP, the Permanent forum and all Human and Indigenous rights bodies to support with the following recommendations:**

1. **note the instability of Te Tiriti and the rights of Maaori, the ongoing need for our constitutional protection and for safeguards to prevent continual violent regression.**
2. **urge the New Zealand government to reverse its current position on the UNDRIP and resume work with Maaori to develop a robust and ambitious declaration plan.**
3. **urge the New Zealand government to cease its regressive political and legislative programme and attacks on Maaori, and refocus on fulfilling obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the UNDRIP.**
4. **And That the EMRIP urgently conduct a country engagement follow-up in Aotearoa to stem this tide of indigenous rights violations.**

**Toituu te Tiriti, Teenaa koutou katoa.**