

Indigenous Peoples Caucus
Commission on Human Rights
Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights
Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 19th Session
21-27 July 2001

The Honourable Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations Headquarters
New York, N.Y. 10017
U.S.A.

27 July 2001

Dear Mr. Annan,

Please find attached a copy of a letter of 26 July 2001 from the Indigenous Peoples Caucus assembled at the 19th Session of the U.N. Working Group on Indigenous Populations, addressed to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mrs. Mary Robinson. The subject of the letter is the process of implementing ECOSOC Resolution 2000/22 creating the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. As you are aware, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has been designated as the lead agency for the implementation of the resolution.

We draw your attention to our request "that the process of implementing the resolution creating the Permanent Forum, especially processes of selecting the Indigenous and state experts and the establishment of the secretariat, be carried out with the maximum possible transparency and consultation with Indigenous Peoples." Please note also that the Indigenous Caucus has expressed its firm belief that the Working Group on Indigenous Populations needs to continue after the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Respectfully,

Tomas Alarcon
Co-Chair, Indigenous Peoples Caucus

Frank E. Guivarra
Co-Chair, Indigenous Peoples Caucus

c.c.

H.E. Mr. Leandro O. Despouy, President, U.N. Commission on Human Rights