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Hafa adai and greetings to all,

I am Lisa Linda Natividad, a native CHamoru from the island of Guahan in the Mariana Islands of Micronesia. My homeland Guahan is a United States unincorporated territory akin to a modern-day colony. In 2008, the indigenous peoples of the Pacific and Caribbean filed a global intervention on the UN Decolonization process. It began by noting that in international law the word “sacred” is used only once. This is in relation to the “sacred trust obligation” which Administering States have to the “inhabitants of the (non-self-governing) territories” under Article 73 of the United Nations Charter. This “sacred obligation” is owed to millions of indigenous peoples who reside in the Pacific and Caribbean and who, under international law, are unable to realize our right to self-determination and self-governance, and remain on the United Nations list of “non-self-governing territories (NSGT)” pursuant to G.A. Resolution 66-1 of 1946. There remains six NSGTs in the Pacific to include American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guahan (Guam), New Caledonia (Kanaky), Pitcairn, and Tokelau.

The Special Committee on Decolonization, which has oversight of the Decolonization process has been unable to implement its decolonization resolutions and the U.N. System has ignored the directives given to it by UN Member states. The UN General Assembly and its member states have declared not one, but FOUR International Decades to eradicate colonialism with woefully insufficient response from the UN System according to independent analyses. In doing so, the United Nations General Assembly once again affirmed its inability to eradicate colonialism and its failure to implement numerous recommendations from United Nations bodies including this Forum, for a concrete plan to implement the Right of Self Determination and delist the UN Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Long before the UN Human Rights Conventions were conceived and came into force, the United Nations had begun to address and examine the right of indigenous peoples residing in colonies, to self-determination. There is a distinct body of international human rights law that deals with peoples and territories that are not self-governing. We indigenous peoples and our traditional lands, territories and resources, were subjected to imperialism and domination by foreign powers during the colonial period. We were denied the most fundamental of all human rights, the right of Self- Determination justified by the Doctrine of Discovery.

In the early 1950's the United Nations passed several Resolutions referencing rights of indigenous peoples in the Non-self-governing Territories, yet few of these directives have been implemented to date. In 2006 the General Assembly adopted the **Plan of Implementation** (POI) – [A/60/853-E/2006/75, 17 May 2006], to endorse an implementation strategy, yet no action has been taken to implement the POI, and it is not referenced in the Decolonization discourse- despite its approval by the General Assembly. The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has addressed this matter before as indicated in the third Forum report to the ECO-SOC. Unfortunately, the recommendations of the UN Permanent Forum were ignored. No report was undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Since the last global intervention was filed with the Forum on this topic in 2008, many Experts in the UN system have addressed the critical need to move forward to address and remedy the embarrassment of colonization. It is evident that the Fourth Committee is unable or unwilling to address the critical human rights issues relating to the right of self-determination of peoples in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and that this matter must be addressed by the Third Committee, the Forum and other Experts within the UN Human Rights System.

The following recommendations are offered to the Forum Experts:

1. That the Forum recommend the ECO-SOC implement the relevant provisions of the Plan of Implementation (POI) adopted by the General Assembly in May 2006, and ensure the necessary resources are made available to carry out the plan;
2. That the Forum recommend the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of the Peoples of the Non-Self- Governing Territories to oversee and report to the United Nations on the status of human rights in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the implementation of the POI; and
3. That the Forum undertake a Decade review of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism with the aim of identifying impediments to the fulfillment of the mandate and proposing solutions to the Decolonization crisis experienced by Indigenous Peoples in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

On behalf of our ancestors, our elders, our children, and our future generations to come; we implore the UNPFII's action and support to allow us to self-determine our political futures. *Si Yu'os ma'ase!*