

Mr Chairman,

My name is **ANDERSON MUTANG URUD**. I am of the Kalabit people of Sarawak, in Malaysia and I speak on behalf of the International Federation of Human Rights. Before beginning, I would like to thank the following people .

- Antoine BLANCA, Coordinator and Director of the Geneva Centre for Human Rights
- Erica-Irene A. DAES, Chairman of WGIP
- The UN Secretary General, Mr. Boutros Boutros GHALI, and all Member States
- And finally, I would like to acknowledge the presence of fellow tribal leaders and indigenous representatives.

On behalf of the Dayak peoples of Sarawak, Malaysia, I want to thank the United Nations for making 1993 the year of Indigenous Peoples. It is my hope that the sun has finally risen over the green mountains after our long battle with the cold night. I share this hope with my indigenous brothers and sisters who have come here from all over the world.

I come from Sarawak, which is a state in Malaysia on the island of Borneo. Sarawak is less than two percent the size of Brazil, yet is currently producing almost two thirds of the world's supply of tropical timber. As the International Federation of Human Rights has reported in 1991, even if the current rate of logging were immediately reduced by one half, all primary forest in Sarawak would be destroyed by the year 2000.

In areas that are logged, fish, wild animals, sago palms, rattan and medicinal plants disappear. The trees which bear the fruit which feeds the wild pigs are cut down for timber. The pigs disappear, and with them vanishes the main source of meat for our peoples. Many of us are now hungry. Trees and vines with poisonous barks are felled, and find their way into the streams, killing all the fish. Mud from the eroded lands pollutes the rivers, bringing us diseases and destroying our source of drinking water. Even when we mark our burial grounds, the logging companies bulldoze through them, with no regard for our feelings. Hundreds of graveyards have been destroyed in this way. When we complain about the destruction, they sometimes offer us a small sum of money as compensation, but it is an insult to us. How can we accept money that is traded for the bodies of our ancestors ?