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**International Convention on  
the Elimination  
of all Forms of  
Racial Discrimination**

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION  
OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION  
Sixty-ninth session  
31 July - 18 August 2006

**PREVENTION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, INCLUDING EARLY  
WARNING MEASURES AND URGENT ACTION PROCEDURES\***

**Decision 1 (69)**

**SURINAME**

1. The Committee, recalling its Decisions 3 (66) of March 2005 and 1 (67) of August 2005 on Suriname, reiterates its deep concern about information alleging that the State party has authorized additional resource exploitation and associated infrastructure projects that pose substantial threats of irreparable harm to indigenous and tribal peoples, without any formal notification to the affected communities and without seeking their prior agreement or informed consent.
2. Drawing once again the attention of the State party to its General Recommendation 23 (1997) on the rights of indigenous peoples, the Committee strongly recommends the State party to:
  - Ensure legal acknowledgement of the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples to possess, develop, control and use their communal lands and to participate in the exploitation, management and conservation of the associated natural resources;

- Strive to reach agreements with the peoples concerned, as far as possible, before awarding any concessions;
  
  - Ensure that indigenous and tribal peoples are granted the right of appeal to the courts, or any independent body specifically created for that purpose, in order to uphold their traditional rights and their right to be consulted before concessions are granted and to be fairly compensated for any damage;
  
  - Elaborate a framework law on the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples and take advantage of the technical assistance available under the advisory services and technical assistance Programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for that purpose;
  
  - Extend an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people for a visit on its territory.
3. The Committee requests that detailed information on the above-mentioned issues be included in the eleventh to thirteenth periodic reports of the State party, to be submitted in a single document on 14 April 2007. The Committee also wishes to receive, as previously requested, detailed information on the current status of the revised draft Mining Act and its compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, as well as with the Committee's 2004 concluding observations.
4. The Committee draws the attention of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as the competent United Nations bodies, in particular the Human Rights Council, to the particularly alarming situation in relation to the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples in Suriname, and invites them to take all appropriate measures in this regard.

*1785<sup>th</sup> meeting  
18 August 2006*