



# AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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## **13<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

19 May 2014

### **Discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples**

**Statement by Ms Tania Rishniw, Assistant Secretary  
Australian Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet**

*(Check against delivery)*

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Australia strongly supports the convening of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in September 2014 with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples.

Australia was pleased to co-sponsor the initial United Nations resolution to establish this event. Australia notes that the World Conference is the first high-level meeting of its kind convened by the United Nations to share perspectives and best practices on the realisation of the rights of indigenous peoples.

Australia therefore expresses regret at the delays which may affect arrangements for the World Conference.

We acknowledge the efforts made by the President of the General Assembly, Member States and indigenous peoples to resolve the current delays, to enable the World Conference to take place as planned. A way forward needs to be found expeditiously. Australia commits to continuing to work constructively towards inclusive solutions to ensure the success of the World Conference.

The Australian Government is supportive of the rights of indigenous people to be represented at international fora on Indigenous issues and the participation of civil society at the World Conference. It is important for its credibility that the World Conference carries the support of indigenous peoples.

Australia is considering sending a high level delegation and will look at support for indigenous delegates to attend and participate in conference proceedings.

The World Conference will provide Australia with an opportunity to share and learn from strategies that address indigenous disadvantage and that achieve better life outcomes for indigenous people.

Thank you madam Chair.