

Islamic Republic of **I R A N**

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by
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before
The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples
Roundtable 3: "Indigenous Peoples' Lands, Territories and Resources"

New York, 22 September 2014

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Distinguished Co- Chairs,

I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate the presentations made by distinguished co-chairs and members of the round tables.

The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples provides us with a unique opportunity to uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the right to development. It offers an opportunity to recognize a distinctive contributions that indigenous made to the human civilization, sharing their knowledge and rich legacy with other nations.

Iran welcomes the adoption of the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, which contains action-oriented commitments to create an enabling and cooperative environment for the promotion and protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Indeed, it is a road map for Member States and the United Nations to turn words into action and acts as a truly transformative force in the lives of Indigenous Peoples.

The negotiation process leading to the adoption of the document was inclusive in nature by which Member States and indigenous representatives joined together in a spirit of cooperation and partnership to ensure the Conference's success. Actions, together with the necessary resources, timelines, capacity building and technical assistance must be the solid cornerstone for going forward; and the results for Indigenous Peoples must be deep, lasting and transformative.

As underscored by Secretary - General in the opening session of the Conference, "Indigenous Peoples are central to our discourse of human rights and global development." Likewise, we

emphasize the Indigenous Peoples right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development, and call upon all states to give due consideration to all the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the elaboration of the post-2015 development.

Distinguished Co- Chairs,

Lands and resources are the central foundation for all wealth. The dispossession of lands and resources from Indigenous Peoples form persistent violations of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and has led them to deprivation from the minimum standards for survival dignity, and well being.

Significant steps are needed by Member States and the United Nations relevant mechanisms, especially the Forum for Indigenous Peoples for further realization of Indigenous Peoples rights through reviewing national legislation, policies and programs and to adopt a national plan of action that would improve the quality of life of the Indigenous Peoples.

Furthermore, the ongoing systematic and systemic violation of their right to lands and natural resources need to be addressed thoroughly; thus paving the way for treaty settlements through apology for historical and colonial wrongs, cultural and financial redress and the restitution of traditionally held lands and resources.

Finally, we reiterate that the UN Declaration on the rights of indigenous people continues to contain valid principles that provides impetus to ensure that full and equal enjoyment by Indigenous Peoples of all their human rights at the national, regional and international levels.

I Thank You