

**Statement by International Chief Wilton Littlechild, I.P.C.
Ambassador of the Olympic Winter Games and the World Indigenous Nations
(WIN) Games
13th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 12-23 May 2014
Agenda Item 6: Discussion of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples
19 May 2014**

Good morning to all delegations. Since 1977, a tremendous amount of international work has been undertaken to initiate holding the World Indigenous Nations Games. Two World Indigenous Nations sports congresses have been held. Consultations have been undertaken with the International Olympic Committee and the matter has been proposed at numerous world sports assemblies.

In November of 2013, the Sports Minister on behalf of Brazil, together with the Indigenous sports leaders, Marcos Terena and Carlos Terena of Brazil, together with Indigenous sports leaders from 14 countries met in Mato Grosso, Brazil, to solidify plans for the 1st World Indigenous Peoples Games from June 27th to July 10th, 2015 at a location that will be announced on August 9th, 2014, International Day of Indigenous Peoples.

To date, there are expressions of interest and entries of teams from 25 countries in all aspects of the 1st World Indigenous Peoples Games: the sports competitions, demonstration of traditional games, and spiritual ceremonies. It should be noted that these celebrations are founded on the right to self-determination, article 31 and all the related articles on culture contained in the UN *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. In reference to the Mato Grosso Declaration which was unanimously adopted on November 16th, 2013, which states, in part:

“Affirming the well-being, survival and dignity of Indigenous Peoples recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and considering Article 31 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, from Convention 169 of the International Labour Organization, in accordance with the United Nations Charter and other international norms and standards.

Believing in the richness of our cultural diversity, the values of our languages, physical sport and traditional games, arts, dance, song and ceremony, connects our relationship to mother earth, the environment: the air, the water and the sacred fire.

...

Desiring to continue our contribution to human kind we solemnly call upon all, at this world conference from all the four directions of our Mother Earth, to positively act for peace and development.

2. The States and governments to join us in partnership and mutual respect in implementing our right to self-determination through sports and traditional games as well as the manifestations of our traditional knowledge and cultural expressions.

According to this, the Inter Tribal Committee (ITC) shall be a reference to the works regarding these matters, articulating to build a process to gather technical support and financial contribution.”

Since the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples will be held prior to the World Indigenous Peoples Games, this submission is to announce the Games and to request that it be included in the Roundtables at the World Conference to ensure wider participation of interested Indigenous Peoples, Tribes and Nations is garnered.

Hai Hai. Thank you.

Statement by Dr. Wilton Littlechild, I.P.C., Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
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Good morning to all delegations. Since the last presentation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its 11th Session, the Commission has substantially concluded its court-ordered mandate and is now preparing our final report. You may recall the Commission's mandate requires statement gathering, the establishment of a National Research Centre, the holding of 7 National Events and the implementation of commemoration projects. As part of this work, we undertook an initiative to research and document the cases of children who went missing or died at the "Indian Residential Schools."

I would like to also take this opportunity to sincerely thank Chief Oren Lyons of the Onondaga Nation for his inclusion of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada during his intervention under Agenda Item 3: Principles of Good Governance on May 14th, 2014. In this statement, Chief Lyons supported the work of the Commission in working towards reconciliation. I also want to thank Honorary Witnesses Francisco Cali, President of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Grand Chief Edward John, Member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, for their outstanding contributions to the Commission.

The Commissions of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada would like to request an opportunity to present our findings of the important work that has taken place over the past five years at the World Conference.

Hai Hai. (Thank you.)