

**Statement by International Chief Wilton Littlechild, Expert Member (WEOG Region)**

**9<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016)**

**Agenda Item: 3 Follow-up to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples – Briefing and Discussion on the Consultation Process to enable the participation of Indigenous Peoples’ representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them**

**Closing Comments**

**July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Good afternoon to all delegations. I would like to thank former Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and now Dean James Anaya, for being a moderator for the Expert Workshop to review the Expert Mechanism mandate and his ongoing work and support for the promotion and protection of the human rights of Indigenous peoples.

I want to draw attention to Annex I of the Expert Workshop report, which provides a non-exhaustive list of proposals put forward at the workshop. In particular, I would like to highlight the following:

“The Expert Mechanism should prepare an annual global report on development regarding the implementation of the Declaration.”

This is consistent with Canada’s intervention this morning, which states that Canada envisages that, *inter alia*, the Expert Mechanism “... would draft an annual report on the worldwide status of achievement of specific objectives of the Declaration, by compiling and disseminating lessons learned and best practices.” Canada noted that such a practice would “...help to effectively achieve the principles and ends” of the UN *Declaration*.

Perhaps the Expert Mechanism, to mark its first decade, could undertake to complete a compilation of its Advice for the past five years, as a starting point to producing annual global reports. Mr. Chair Barume’s introductory comments are consistent with this suggestion, along with those of Dean Anaya and the representative of Canada.

Finally, there was reference to the adoption of the Organization of American States’ (OAS) *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* made this morning, highlighting article 24, the provision on Treaty rights. This is an important article that advances the Treaty rights of Indigenous peoples, building on article 37 of the UN *Declaration*. Indeed, it enhances article 37 because it adds two important concepts. The first is specific reference to the “true spirit and intent of Treaties” and secondly, it requires that “States shall give due consideration to the understanding of the Indigenous peoples as regards to Treaties.”

I would like to thank the representatives of Indigenous peoples who attended the negotiation sessions of the OAS Declaration.

I would also like to thank the State representatives who have supported the work of the Consultation Process to enable the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them.

Hai Hai. (Thank you.)