

## Item 6. Follow up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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This statement is delivered on behalf of the Arctic caucus consisting of the Sámi and the Inuit and therefore the following Arctic indigenous peoples' institutions and organizations: Sámi Parliament in Finland, Sámi Parliament in Norway, Sámi Parliament in Sweden, and Sámi Parliamentary Council as well as the Inuit Circumpolar Council and the Saami Council.

In September 2017, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution titled, "Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them" (A/RES/71/321). By its terms, the Assembly decided to continue its consideration of possible further measures necessary to enhance the participation of Indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in relevant United Nations meetings on issues affecting them. Despite our disappointment with the outcome of the previous consultation process and the aforementioned resolution, we consider this decision to be an important step towards the continuation of the transparent and inclusive procedure of enhancing the participation of Indigenous peoples at the United Nations.

In January 2020, a second dialogue meeting on enhanced Indigenous peoples' participation at the UN took place in Quito, Ecuador. The dialogue meeting brought together Indigenous peoples' representatives and Member States. The meeting was jointly organized and hosted by the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COI-CA), International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), and The Sámi Parliament in Finland. The objective of the meeting was to provide Indigenous peoples' representatives and experts the opportunity to consider and consolidate their positions and strategies on the current and future processes of enhanced participation, and to have a dialogue meeting with Member States on the topic. Moreover, a Temporary Committee for the Indigenous Coordinating Body for Enhanced Participation in the United Nations was established. The Committee includes Indigenous Peoples representatives from the seven indigenous socio-cultural regions, tasked to facilitate cooperation amongst Indigenous Peoples with regard to the enhanced participation process in the United Nations.

In December 2020, after regional consultations, the Temporary Committee sent a letter to the President of the General Assembly to nominate two indigenous co-facilitators, Dr. Claire Charters and Mr. Estebancio Castro Diaz for the process. The two member state co-facilitators have yet to be appointed.

Furthermore, due to the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak, The Temporary Committee has sent two open letters (in 2020 and 2021) to the President of the General Assembly to request a postponement of the third session of "The Informal Interactive Hearing of the President of the General Assembly on Enhanced Participation of Indigenous Peoples" until in-person meetings can take place allowing the broadest and most inclusive participation possible of Indigenous Peoples and Member States.

We attach great importance to Indigenous peoples' active involvement in all the negotiations affecting indigenous peoples in partnership with Member States consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Furthermore, future process to enhance Indigenous Peoples' participation in the United Nations must be based on the achievements previously secured. We are still of the view that Indigenous Representative Institutions should be granted participatory rights in the UN on the same level as the vast majority of observers to the UN.

We look forward to proactively engaging in the future process and when in-person meetings can take place allowing the broadest and most inclusive participation possible of Indigenous Peoples. There-fore, we recommend that the Permanent Forum:

1. Encourages Member States to to include Indigenous peoples' representatives in their dele-gations during the consultations and negotiations on enhanced Indigenous peoples' partic-ipation.

2. Encourages Members states to work with Indigenous Peoples to seek common positions on the ways and means to achieve enhanced participation for Indigenous peoples in the United Nations. To conclude, we have noted the recent study of Permanent Forum Members Grigory Evguenievich Lukiyantsev, Sven-Erik Soosaar and Aleksei Tsykarev on Representative institutions and models of self-governance of indigenous peoples in Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia: ways of enhanced participation. We would like to reiterate the importance of respecting existing socio-cultural regions and the cooperation in the Arctic between the Sámi and the Inuit and we strongly suggest avoiding any modifications to this constructive regional coordination.

Thank you. Giitu.