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Preparations for The 2014<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Madam Chair,

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In the presentation given by the President of the Sámi Parliament in Norway, Mr Egil Olli, he announced an invitation to meet in Áltá in Sápmi the second week in June 2013. The objective is to facilitate for concerted input and influence to The World Conference in 2014 by the indigenous peoples.

The Sámi Parliament in Norway is prepared to take responsibility so that Indigenous Peoples may meet in time before The 2014<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. We have carried out a feasibility study to find out our capacity to host such a preparatory conference in 2013 in a small town like Áltá in Sápmi. Under the precondition that the final decision to accept our offer can be made no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> 2012, we will take the responsibility to host this preparatory conference.

At the outset there are some uncertainties regarding the possible outcome of The World Conference 2014. It will end the 2<sup>nd</sup> decade on the world indigenous peoples. It will demark the 7 years after the adoption of The UN Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples.

How will indigenous peoples be involved in the preparations towards The World Conference 2014 and at the conference itself?



The Sámi Parliament believes there is an urgent need to start regional processes on the content of, and strategies towards, The World Conference 2014 as soon as possible. Such processes should preferably also feed into a common process among Indigenous Peoples from all regions.

Madam Chair

If we decide to meet in Áltá 2013, that should ideally be the end of a consensus building process among Indigenous Peoples, and that we should be able to adopt a common platform for indigenous peoples input to be negotiated with the state parties at the World Conference in 2014.

We would suggest a setup of an Indigenous Peoples' Coordinating Committee for 2013 and 2014. The Coordinating Committee should be constituted by prominent members representing at least all the 7 indigenous regions, as well as indigenous women and youth, and will have the primary responsibility to facilitate the drafting of common strategies and positions. In addition it will have to decide of the modalities for the conference in Áltá 2013. Questions like;

- How do we ensure high level Indigenous Peoples participation?
- How will states be involved at the conference?
- How will it involve UN-agencies?
- How can we utilize existing processes in our preparations towards 2013 and 2014?



For us it is important that the continued process in this regard is owned and executed by Indigenous Peoples themselves. Our responsibility would be to make sure that there is a link to the local organizers of the 2013 meeting, and to facilitate the conference itself.

We hope that we during these days could continue exchanging ideas on how these responsibilities could be carried further on.

Thank you, Madam Chair.