

[Indigenous thanksgiving]

Mr/Madam Chair,

Distinguished panelists,

Representatives of Member States,

My indigenous relations,

It is my great pleasure to be able to participate in this panel.

As the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Outcome Document stands as an important vehicle for enhancing the consultative and participatory status of indigenous governments and authorities. Let me echo the introductory remarks of panelist Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine, and underline that the purpose of this process is to enhance the consultative and participatory status of Indigenous Peoples' governments and authorities so that we can participate in all decision making processes that affect us adding to the efforts of the international community towards peace.

As a member of the Temporary Committee I am encouraged to see the various interventions from Indigenous Peoples under agenda item 3, peace justice and strong institutions, reiterating that as self-determined Peoples they have established and continue to maintain their institutions of peace and justice. I have also taken note of the concerns raised by some regarding States undermining these indigenous institutions.^[1]

^[1]Therefore the Temporary Committee follows this 20th session with great interest as it strengthens our determination to continue our activities to enhance the participation of these indigenous representatives institutions in the work of the United Nations. ^[1]

As you may know, the first informal meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand 11-12 November 2016, with broad representation and participation of Indigenous Peoples from all seven socio-cultural regions. As the process slowly progressed, Indigenous Peoples have steadily increased their coordination of efforts and consolidated positions and views.

^[1]^[1]I am therefore very pleased to expand on the outcomes of the second meeting that was held in Quito, Ecuador 27-31 January 2020. ^[1]^[1]The Quito meeting was held with the objective of providing Indigenous Peoples' representatives and experts the opportunity to consider and consolidate their positions and strategies on the current process and processes to come.

On that note, I like to make a special mention to the governments of Norway, Canada, Finland for providing ways and means for enabling our participation, and the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, International Indian Treaty Council, COICA, and The Sami Parliament in Finland for co-organizing this meeting.

The meeting served as a continuation of the process, and also provided a space for Indigenous representatives from all regions to have a full picture of what has happened with the process until today and to globally discuss, re-think different approaches, and have a dialogue with Member States. As we feel an urgency to continue this work because of the dangers to Indigenous Peoples, and to all of humanity, that are occurring with increasing frequency. Our future and the future of the world may well depend on our voices being heard at the international level. Towards this renewed effort, and accompanied with the general principles outlined by Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine, I am pleased to share the following key activities:

First, a Temporary Coordinating body has been established with representatives from all seven socio-cultural regions to ensure Indigenous Peoples' participation, to coordinate and facilitate Indigenous Peoples' internal processes, to lobby member States to get them engaged to take into account the views of Indigenous Peoples.

Second, we are pleased to endorse our support for Dr. Claire Charters and Mr. Estebancio Castro-Diaz Kuna indigenous from Panama, to fill the role of indigenous advisers to the President of the General Assembly. Both Dr. Charters Maori from New Zealand and Mr. Castro Diaz have a distinguished record at the international level as well as profound relationships with a wide range of Indigenous Peoples and States. We are certain that they can successfully carry out their responsibilities.


Third, is in relation to the Human Rights Council. In taking full advantage of the opportunities afforded in A/HRC/42/L.24 to further enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions in meetings of the Human Rights Council on issues affecting them, we have nominated Estebancio Castro-Diaz as co-chair of the informal roundtable called for by paragraph 13 of A/HRC/42/L.24.

My final point is in relation to the current pandemic. In the open letter dated June 22, 2020, and pursuant to the full, effective, direct and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples as reflected in Article 18 of the UN Declaration we reiterated that any meetings, or negotiations regarding the enhanced participation process should be postponed until in-person meeting can take place allowing for the broadest and most inclusive and meaningful participation as possible of Indigenous Peoples and Member States.

Much remains to be done, and to continue the partnership we call on Member States to:

- To call for a meeting with the Secretary General and the President of the General Assembly to outline their views on the appropriate processes for the General Assembly's consideration of Indigenous peoples' enhanced participation in the United Nations as well as substance;
- To consolidate, strengthen and coordinate with the Group of Friendly State;

- To Support Indigenous Peoples' inclusion in all consultations and negotiations in the United Nations including their appointment of two of the four advisors to the President of the General Assembly;
- To request the President of the General Assembly to hold a series of informal but high-level meetings with States on Indigenous Peoples' enhanced participation in the United Nations when in-person meetings can occur again;
- 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.

 I like to conclude by reaffirming the conclusion of the Quito document as we are dedicated to seeing this process reach a successful conclusion creating enhanced participation for Indigenous Peoples through our own governments, parliaments and assemblies, which include inter alia our traditional councils and authorities. We have committed our resources both human and financial to this effort. We call on the world to support us in whatever way they are able.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address the Permanent Forum, and I look forward to your contributions and questions on the matter of enhanced participation.

[Indigenous thanksgiving]

Thank you Mr/Madam Chair.