



## PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

### STATEMENT

24<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council

Geneva, 17 September 2013

**Half-day panel on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples**

Madame Vice-President,

Norway would like to commend the Indigenous Global Coordination Group (GCG), and acknowledge the many achievements so far regarding the preparation process leading up to the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly next year, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

In the first phase of the preparatory process, leading up to the modality resolution last September<sup>1</sup>, we benefitted from the competence and experience of an indigenous representative to assist in and facilitate the process, Mr. John Henriksen from the Norwegian Sami Parliament, together with a government representative, Ambassador de Alba from Mexico.

We valued this innovative approach and encourage the continuation of the preparatory process along this constructive path.

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<sup>1</sup>A/RES/66/296 «Organization of the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples».

The Alta preparatory conference in June 2013 culminated an indigenous peoples' global process and resulted in the adoption of the Alta Outcome Document. Norway has, together with eight other countries, actively supported Mexico's initiative to give the Alta Outcome Document an official UN Document status. The Alta Outcome Document, supported by the thematic reports prepared by the three UN Mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples, constitutes valuable inputs for the preparations of the World Conference.

In the coming year we need to see good partnerships between the representatives of indigenous peoples and states.

Full and effective participation and consultation of indigenous peoples through all stages of the Conference including in the drafting of the outcome document, and participation at the conference itself, is imperative to the success of the Conference. The modality resolution defines constructive ways of ensuring participation of indigenous peoples at the World Conference.

Madame Vice-President,

Norway actively supports the indigenous peoples' preparatory process.

We supported the Alta Conference financially. Norway also contributes to the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations. As the Fund needs extra support we contributed USD 150 000 this year. We encourage more states to contribute to the independent preparations by indigenous peoples over the coming year, and especially through supporting the Voluntary Fund.

I thank you.