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14th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

20 April 2015

Agenda Item 3(a): Outcome of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Madam Chair

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today and pay our respects to elders past, present and future.

Australia reiterates its support for the outcomes of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and the need for comprehensive follow up to give effect to the Outcome Document.

The Australian Government actively supported the development of the Outcome Document, which importantly, included extensive consultations with Indigenous peoples from across the globe, including Australian indigenous groups.

We recognise the importance of engaging in good faith consultation with Indigenous peoples in relation to decisions that affect them.

We welcome the discussions at the 14th Session of the Permanent Forum on best practice approaches to give effect to the Outcome Document, as well as to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Wherever possible, the UN should aim to avoid duplication and increase efficiency in order to achieve the ends of the Declaration.

The development of the system-wide action plan is key to harmonising the UN's work on indigenous issues. This includes the work of the Permanent Forum, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to achieve the ends of the UN Declaration and the outcomes of the World Conference.

Australia is also working to give effect to the World Conference Outcome Document through a range of actions consistent with the document's intentions.