

Australia Intervention  
Item 7 – World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Mr Chair

I will keep my remarks short in order to allow time for Indigenous representatives to be heard on their priorities for the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

Mr Chair

The Australian Government has been a strong, long-term supporter of the convening of a World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014. We were pleased to co-sponsor the initiative to convene the World Conference during the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly in 2010, and we wish to acknowledge the commitment and leadership of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to achieving this outcome.

The 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples will provide a critical opportunity for Indigenous peoples, civil society and national governments to share their experiences and best practices on the realisation of the rights of Indigenous peoples. The Australian Government is committed to working with His Excellency, Ambassador Luis-Alfonso de Alba of Mexico, and John Henriksen, to ensure a collaborative, constructive outcome to the World Conference that builds on the commitments enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Mr Chair

The Australian Government firmly believes that the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples needs to be ensured throughout all stages of the planning, preparation and convening of the World Conference. We are committed to ensuring that the voices of all Indigenous People – including Indigenous women and Indigenous People with a disability – are heard. We also believe that it is essential that mechanisms to follow-up the World Conference be considered.

Mr Chair

As we move towards 2014, Australia will continue to work with those who have championed this initiative and today we look forward to hearing the views of Indigenous representatives on their vision for the Conference, including on when it should be convened to ensure the highest-level participation; what format it should be held in; what themes should be discussed and what the outcomes of the Conference should be.

Thank you Mr Chair.