

Chair,

I make this statement on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Guatemala, Iceland, Indonesia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay, United States of America and Venezuela.

We expected to celebrate, as announced in the UN Journal for many weeks, the fifth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the General Assembly Hall. We received notice yesterday late afternoon that it could not be held in the GA Hall.

We regret this unfortunate and untimely move of the commemoration. We note that the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues have faced similar obstacles to access the GA Hall in the past. We trust that the competent authorities of the United Nations will make every effort to ensure that indigenous peoples and indigenous issues are awarded fair treatment at the United Nations, in keeping with the spirit of the Declaration itself.

Thank you.