

## **World Conference on Indigenous Peoples**

### **Summary of Round Table 1**

#### ***UN system action for the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples***

3pm-6pm, 22 September 2014, Conference Room 4

Prepared by SPFI

On the theme 'UN System action for the implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples', round key issues raised by Member States, indigenous peoples representatives and civil society included the following:

- (i) Overall, discussants underlined that the World Conference and its outcome document marked a milestone for the UN system's work with indigenous peoples on issues that affect them. There was broad consensus that with the adopted outcome document of WCIP, the time has come for the UN system to move from normative discussions on indigenous peoples' issues to action and integration of indigenous peoples in the UN's work at all levels.
- (ii) Stressing the importance of indigenous peoples full and equal participation in the UN system, speakers provided examples of how this could be done, inter alia, by (a) ensuring indigenous peoples' participation in various decision-making governance structures at local, national, regional and international levels, (b) recognizing indigenous peoples governments and high level official by providing an adequate UN status, and (c) ensuring that there are UN staff members with indigenous background.
- (iii) In line with the outcome document, several speakers called for the appointment of an indigenous senior UN official – at the level of Under-Secretary-General – to oversee the implementation of the UNDRIP and to raise awareness of indigenous peoples issues within the UN system and beyond.
- (iv) A key focus of several speakers was the UN system's work on indigenous peoples at the regional and national level. The round table participants heard examples of how regional and national UN mechanisms, including the regional commissions and the UN country teams, can ensure that indigenous peoples are part of the development and strategizing of programmes and activities in a structured and coherent manner, including in the UN Development Assistance Frameworks and by using the 'UNDG guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues' (2009) and ensuring the availability of relevant disaggregated data.
- (v) Numerous speakers committed to fully support a system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the UNDRIP and looked forward to the SG's progress report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.
- (vi) Establishing appropriate monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the UNDRIP and reviewing existing UN mechanisms mandated to work on indigenous peoples issues were recurrent issues raised during the discussion. Some speakers called for the establishment of a new UN mechanism tasked with the oversight of UNDRIP implementation while others referred to updating existing ones and strengthening the work of the UN treaty bodies on indigenous peoples' issues.
- (vii) Strengthening the Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) on Indigenous Issues was another key point of discussion. Speakers alluded to the IASG to become more effective through more frequent meetings with higher level UN officials.

The panel consisted of:

*Co-Chairs*

- Mr. Ghazali Ohorella, Representative of the Pacific Indigenous Region
- H.E. Edita Hrdá, Permanent Representative of Czech Republic (Eastern European Group)

*Presenters*

- Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Mr. Atencio Lopez, Representative of the Central and South America and the Caribbean Indigenous Region
- Dr. Kanayo Nwanze, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development

Speakers included representatives of:

*Member States and Observers:* Panama, France, Spain, Pakistan, Hungary, United States, Viet Nam, Argentina, and the European Union;

*Observers and UN entities:* International Union for Conservation of Nature, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, International Labour Organization, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Development Programme, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on behalf of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples Issues, United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, United Nations Population Fund, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples.

*Indigenous peoples organizations, civil society and others:* Asia Indigenous Caucus, Pacific Indigenous Caucus, Arctic Indigenous Caucus, Indigenous Peoples with Disabilities Global Network, Cherokee Nation, Chief of the Chakma Circle, National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, the Chickasaw Nation, the Navajo Nation, National Native Title Council, National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation in Canada (COTTFN), International Indian Treaty Council, Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum and KAPAEENG Foundation, Kalipunan ng Mga Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas, Pacific Disability Forum (Nepal Indigenous Disabled Association), Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Indigenous Peoples Nepal, National Indian Women's Association, Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, and the Assyrian Aid Society of America.

The conference room was organized with open seating.