



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail australia@un.int

150 East 42nd Street, New York NY 10017-5612 Ph 212 - 351 6600 Fax 212 - 351 6610 www.australia-unsc.gov.au

13th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

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Ongoing prioritise and themes and follow-up: Post 2015 Development

**Statement by Ms Tania Rishniw, Assistant Secretary Australian
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet**

(check against delivery)

Madam Chair

Australia welcomes this opportunity to exchange views on the post-2015 development agenda. The post-2015 agenda is seeking to promote sustainable development for all, including indigenous peoples. Core to this ambition is to remove barriers to development, promote equality of opportunity and to leave no one behind.

Australia is committed to a post-2015 agenda that focuses global efforts on economic growth and poverty reduction. We support a continued focus on those issues at the core of the MDGs, such as health, education and gender, as well as new issues such as infrastructure and energy. Key is how this agenda can better address inequalities, such as those faced by indigenous peoples.

The MDGs have shown the importance of economic growth for lifting people out of poverty. The new agenda should promote

equality of education and economic opportunities for all groups including indigenous people. Key to this is the role of the private sector in increasing the number of productive jobs. The new agenda should also promote investment in the enablers of sustainable development, such as infrastructure and modern energy, ensuring all people have greater access to basic services, including health, education and water.

Global sustainability must build on local foundations. Indigenous peoples have important perspectives and experiences to share, including traditional knowledge on sustainability, and should be an important part of the global post-2015 conversation.

Thank you madam Chair.