Thank you Mr. Chair. I also thank you for the opportunity to co-present the report with you, on behalf of the disability caucus.

1. BACKGROUND
The report came about because of the participation in the Permanent Forum session last year by a smaller group of indigenous persons with disabilities, with support from Disability Rights Advocacy Fund and AusAID.

It was written in consultation with indigenous persons with disabilities from different regions around the world and representing different disability constituencies. This approach reflects the principle of the global disability community, "Nothing about us without us." We are pleased to inform you that the report well reflects the issues identified by indigenous persons with disabilities.

The report reviews the situation of indigenous persons with disabilities in the enjoyment of their human rights and inclusion in development.

It looks at the main relevant legal standards, the UNDRIP and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the CRPD).

It examines areas identified by indigenous persons with disabilities as areas where discrimination is experienced.

It recommends to all stakeholders to pay more attention to the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities. It makes recommendations to United Nations Agencies and other relevant stakeholders.

2. KEY CONCEPTS AND FRAMING THE DISCUSSION
Today, there are about one billion persons with disabilities in the world. This is about fifteen per cent of the world's population. Applying this percentage to the estimated 360 million indigenous persons in the world, this means that there are about 54 million indigenous persons with disabilities in the world.

Statistics are lacking but some show that far more indigenous persons have disabilities compared to non-indigenous persons. Some reasons for this include poverty, increased exposure to environmental degradation, the impact of large projects such as dams or mining activities and greater risk of being victims of violence.

Information on prevalence is useful but more importantly, we recommend that new statistics tools be used to get information on the actual wellbeing and inclusion of indigenous persons with disabilities.

3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK
The report presents the legal framework for the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities. In particular, it highlights both the UNDRIP and the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the CRPD), which already has 130 parties. The UNDRIP mentions indigenous persons with disabilities in articles 21 and 22, but the CRPD only mentions indigenous persons with disabilities in its preamble. These two instruments together provide important guidance on the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities.

The purpose of the CRPD is to protect all rights of all persons with disabilities. It should be applied in a way that is sensitive to the cultures of indigenous peoples.

One issue is that, while persons with disabilities have fought for inclusion in society, indigenous peoples sometimes rightfully distrust authorities because of attempts to integrate or assimilate them into society or worse. The report mentions the residential school area and stolen generations and the long-lasting effects of these.

For indigenous persons with disabilities, whether living in their communities and/or in urban settings where indigenous institutions may be located, indigenous persons with disabilities should be supported to fully take part in the life of their communities.

So far, there is, however, little awareness among indigenous persons with disabilities of the Declaration and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. There are some indigenous language versions available of the UNDRIP, but translation, dissemination and a process of appropriation by indigenous peoples of the CRPD are needed.

4. THE PURPOSEFUL ABSENCE OF THE CONCEPT OF PREVENTION
The report addresses a key concept, which is the purposeful absence of “prevention” of disability in the CRPD. This is because the CRPD applies to persons who already have disabilities. Thus, the only mention of prevention is to prevent further disabilities of persons who already have disabilities.

The same approach is used in the report: it applies only to persons who already have disabilities.

Also, it points out that sometimes when people talk about prevention they repeat very harmful stereotypes of persons with disabilities. Those stereotypes need to be avoided.

5. LACK OF ATTENTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
The report points out that there has been very little attention by the United Nations system to indigenous persons with disabilities, whether in the indigenous peoples mechanisms or in the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, although we hope that this is changing.

6. PERCEPTIONS OF DISABILITY AMONG INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
The report discusses perceptions of disability among indigenous peoples. It notes that in some cases disability is seen as a curse, or punishment, etc., while in other cases, more positive perceptions of disability might have been lost after colonization or Western influence. An example would be a world view according to which each
person in a community has a special role and special gifts from the creator. It is extremely important to strengthen indigenous institutions to regain or build this inclusion. Just as disability is an evolving concept, indigenous cultures and world views are also not static and can affect persons with disabilities positively or negatively.

7. KEY ISSUES FOR INDIGENOUS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
The report presents key issues for indigenous persons with disabilities. These include self-determination, participation in decision-making and consultation, discrimination, access to justice, education, language and culture including sign languages, access to health, intergenerational trauma, adequate standard of living, living in the community, indigenous children with disabilities, indigenous-led service delivery systems, indigenous women with disabilities, and emergency situations and disaster risk reduction. In all of these areas, indigenous persons with disabilities experience human rights violations and exclusion.

Regarding the right to self-determination, it states that the right of indigenous peoples to self-determination needs to be at the head of any policy that seeks to promote and protect the fights of indigenous persons with disabilities. Indigenous persons with disabilities have the same right to benefit from this as other members of indigenous peoples. This collective right must be taken into account in policy making and service delivery.

The CRPD seeks to provide persons with disabilities the same rights as their peers without disabilities. This same notion also applies to indigenous peoples. Indigenous persons with disabilities should benefit from the same rights and opportunities as other indigenous persons from their community.

However, indigenous person with disabilities do not currently enjoy equal opportunities in all areas of life. Deaf persons in Greenland do not have access to sign language education. In Canada, persons with intellectual disabilities are put under guardianship and denied legal capacity in banking, meaning that people are harassed at the bank and denied the right to cash their own paychecks. Indigenous women with disabilities in Mexico are subjected to violence with impunity and denied the right to inherit property.

The report describes discrimination in different parts of life. In addition to bad laws, mindsets also need to be changed.

We encourage you to read the report and about these different key issues, and to look at these issues from the perspective of indigenous persons with disabilities.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS
The report makes the following main recommendations.

56. Relevant United Nations agencies dealing with indigenous peoples' issues should take action on the inclusion of indigenous persons with disabilities in all their activities, make their websites accessible to persons with disabilities, promote increased participation of indigenous persons with disabilities in their annual
sessions and consider having expert sessions on indigenous persons with disabilities.

57. The President of the General Assembly should ensure that the high-level meeting on disability and development, to be held in 2013, and the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in 2014, in addition to their preparatory processes, are inclusive of and accessible to indigenous persons with disabilities and take place with their full and effective participation. The President should also ensure that their views and interests are reflected in the agenda and the background papers of the meetings.

58. Indigenous organizations should become more proactively inclusive of indigenous persons with disabilities by ensuring a barrier-free environment and by recognizing the existence of indigenous persons with disabilities and their value as full members of indigenous peoples.

59. Organizations of persons with disabilities should include the perspectives, voices and participation of indigenous persons with disabilities.

60. United Nations entities, including the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the regional commissions, should include indigenous persons with disabilities in their work so as to support the establishment and develop the capacity of organizations of indigenous persons with disabilities. They should specifically report on their work in these areas in their dialogues with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

61. States should include information on the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities when they submit reports to the Permanent Forum, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, other relevant treaty bodies and the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. States should allocate funding to build the capacity of indigenous peoples to provide culturally adequate services and for the establishment and development of the capacity of organizations of indigenous persons with disabilities, including a focus on indigenous women with disabilities.

62. States should further support the participation of indigenous persons with disabilities in consultations regarding the post-2015 development agenda and ensure that their needs and perspectives are included in the resulting framework.

We will discuss the report in more detail in our side event which will take place today at 1:15 p.m. in this room, after the morning meeting.

The disability caucus requests that our recommendations be included in the outcome report of the twelfth session. We request the support of everyone here to adopt those recommendations.

57. CONCLUSION
Indigenous persons with disabilities experience the same problems that indigenous people experience. Yet we experience additional issues as well, because there is discrimination not only on the basis of being indigenous but also on the basis of being a person with a disability.

I would like to conclude by again thanking the Permanent Forum for the increased support it has shown us by having this report. In particular the Disability Caucus would like to thank you Mr. Chair and Ms. Myrna Cunningham for your support as well. This report is only a first step, we hope. We hope that indigenous persons with disabilities can be explicitly included in the work of the Forum in the same way that women and youth are being included, for example. We look forward to continuing to have a space in the Permanent Forum in which to exchange and collaborate with you and to make our unique contribution.

Thank you for your attention.