United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Item 4 (b): Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Statement by Michelle Hippolite, Chief Executive of Te Puni Kokiri (Ministry of Māori Development)

20 May 2014
Thank you Madam Chair.

We wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of the incumbent Special Rapporteur, Professor James Anaya.

Professor James Anaya has made a valuable contribution to the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples.

In particular, we welcomed the contribution of the Special Rapporteur during his visit to New Zealand in 2010 and his subsequent report. We appreciated the Special Rapporteur’s input and recommendations on the review of New Zealand’s constitutional arrangements, the Treaty settlement and customary title processes and to our continuing efforts to address social and economic inequalities.

We also acknowledge the contribution of the Special Rapporteur on thematic issues such as violence against indigenous women, the protection of indigenous knowledge and folklore, and his advocacy for legal, administrative and programmatic reforms at the domestic and international levels to give effect to the rights enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other relevant international instruments.

We thank Professor James Anaya for his work and look forward to continuing our dialogue with the new Special Rapporteur, Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz.