



STATEMENT BY BRAZIL

12th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Item 6 - Discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

New York, May 2013

(Please, check against delivery)

Mr. Chair,

Last year, Brazil hosted Rio+20 Conference. It was the largest UN event of all times. In that occasion, indigenous peoples were represented among the major groups, with a direct interest in the issue of promotion of sustainable development. Indigenous peoples have a fundamental contribution to offer regarding the harmonization of economic activity and environmental protection.

The Brazilian Government endeavors to benefit from the participation of indigenous peoples in the process of elaboration of policies which affect them. In this regard, I would like to refer to the recent launching of the National Policy on Territorial and Environmental Management of Indigenous Lands in Brazil, which came into force by a decree established on the World Environment Day last June.

This Decree aims at guaranteeing and promoting the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable use of indigenous land and territorial natural resources, ensuring the integrity of indigenous lands, the improvement of the quality of life and the whole conditions of physical and cultural reproduction for present and future generations of indigenous populations, respecting their socio-cultural autonomy, according to the enforcing legislation.

The Brazilian Administration set up a Public Safety Initiative aimed at providing better policing in isolated indigenous communities. Moreover, we attempted to improve social conditions through the creation of the National Commission for Indigenous Policies in 2006, composed by a board of representatives from multiple indigenous communities. The commission functions as a platform for indigenous peoples to address their regional concerns by: drawing up efficient mechanisms, setting priorities for Brazil's indigenous policies, developing follow-up, monitoring and evaluation strategies and having full-information of the State's budgetary allocations. Finally, we have created management committees within the regional units of the National Indigenous Foundation (FUNAI), composed by equal government and indigenous representation, responsible for the distribution and application of allocated funds.

While Brazil has consistently set up consultations with indigenous peoples prior to the implementation of public projects within their rightful territory, it is now working towards legal formalization of such consultations, in full compliance with and in accordance with the recommendations set forth by the ILO Convention 169.

Brazil has established a formal, direct and institutionalized channel, the National Commission on Indigenous Policy, to facilitate dialogue with regional leaders of indigenous peoples from several ethnicities. The Government of Brazil will soon engage these leaders in transparent and

open discussions viewing their potential participation and contribution to the upcoming high level meeting and its preparatory processes.

We are confident that the high level meeting, taking into consideration the information collected during prior consultations with civil society, will efficiently collaborate to: (1) ensure the consensual endorsement of the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples, (2) ensure the strengthening of prior consultation mechanisms in accordance with the ILO Convention 169, (3) stimulate the creation of frameworks for the participation of indigenous peoples in the governmental institutions responsible for national policymaking and (4) support the improvement of data collection and indicators. Given the aforementioned actions taken by the Government viewing the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples and their increased representation in national policymaking, Brazil wishes to express its hopes for the outcomes of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples to take place next year.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.