

EMRIP 6th Session
Statement by Norway
Item 3 on WCIP 2014
Geneva, 8th July 2013

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Norway is grateful for the comprehensive introductions to the preparation process leading up to the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly next year, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

We would like to, again, commend the indigenous peoples and in particular the work of the Indigenous Global Coordination Group (GCG) for the preparations and achievements so far.

A few weeks ago we noted the success of the Alta preparatory conference which culminated an indigenous peoples' regional process that has been taken place during the past year. Through negotiations and hard work the indigenous peoples from the seven regions, including representatives of the youth and women caucuses, agreed on the adoption of what is now known as the Alta Outcome Document.

This document summarizes the indigenous peoples' common thematic input and aspirations for the World Conference next year. The list of thematic suggestions constitutes valuable contributions for States to consider on substance for the World Conference when it comes to the preparation process the coming year.

It was suggested that the Alta Outcome Document gets an official status as UN Document for the World Conference. Norway is positive to this suggestion.

Mr. Chair,

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The coming year is crucial in the preparations and we need to see good partnerships between the representatives of indigenous peoples and the state representatives.

Norway would like to stress that the full and effective participation and consultation of indigenous peoples through all stages of the conference including in the development of the outcome document is imperative to the success of the conference.

Mr. Chair,

Norway actively supports the indigenous peoples' preparatory process. We supported The Alta Conference financially, to make sure that a representative amount of indigenous peoples' delegates got the possibility to attend.

Furthermore, ensuring indigenous peoples' participation at the upcoming preparatory meetings, and at the World Conference itself, is of crucial importance. In order to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives to UN meetings for preparatory discussions towards the World Conference, Norway has contributed to the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations the last couple of years, and we will continue to do so. As the Fund needs extra support we will contribute USD 150 000 this year.

We encourage more states to also contribute to the independent preparations by indigenous peoples over the coming year, and especially through supporting the Voluntary Fund.

I thank you.

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