



**Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  
6<sup>th</sup> Session Palais des Nations, Geneva 8 – 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2013.**

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**Discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP14)**

INTERVENTION by the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council, delivered by Councillor Craig Cromelin, Councillor for the Wiradjuri Region, and member of the Ngiyampaa Peoples.

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Thank you Mister Chairman,

The New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council is pleased to present this intervention on the Discussion of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP14) and we pay our respect to the Elders and Ancestors of these lands and of the world's Indigenous Peoples.

We note the General Assembly decision through its resolution in 2010, to organise a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly in 2014, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

The World Conference in 2014 will mark the seventh anniversary of the General Assembly's adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and will be an important forum to revisit the achievements of member States to progress the rights of Indigenous peoples including:

- Self determination, participation in decision making, and free prior and informed consent,
- Equality and non-discrimination, and
- Respect for and protection of culture.

We acknowledge the Human Rights Council proposal to establish and maintain the support and full and effective participation of Indigenous peoples throughout all preparatory, planning and follow-up stages of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, as well as during the World Conference itself.

We also note the importance of ensuring the sufficient financial and technical support required to enable the participation of Indigenous peoples at all stages. We recommend that the Expert Mechanism urge member States to ensure that support for Indigenous peoples to actively engage in, and advocate for action-oriented outcomes of the World Conference is provided, with significant focus on adopting appropriate mechanisms to oversee the implementation of the rights outlined in the Declaration.

States are yet to fully recognise the full rights of Indigenous peoples as set out under the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through statutory means such as including Declaration principles in relevant legislation.

The New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council calls on all States in the lead up to the World Conference, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples to need to fully implement the principles outlined in the Declaration, with specific focus on establishing national legislative frameworks and policies for Indigenous Peoples' individual and collective rights, within the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

It is essential that all member States, develop processes to ensure that provisional and national laws, policies and procedures comply with international standards including the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Consideration should be given by States that have not yet done so for the ratification of International Labour Organization Convention 169 (ILO 169) and strengthening mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the Convention. This must include the review of national laws to eliminate discriminatory provisions with the full and effective participation of Indigenous experts to ensure equality and non-discrimination.

In conclusion, we note that with regards to paragraph 19 of the Expert Mechanism's final report of the 5<sup>th</sup> session, which encourages States and all United Nations agencies to support the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, especially through technical and financial contributions.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council respectfully makes the following recommendations to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to encourage States to ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in all processes leading up to and including the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and;**

**Ensure States provide appropriate financial assistance to assist Indigenous peoples participating in the process towards the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, in line with Article 39 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.**