

**Statement of the United Nations Inter-Agency Support Group  
on Indigenous Peoples' Issues  
to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its 14th session**

**Item 3**

**Monday, 20 April 2015**

Madam/Mr. Chairperson,  
Honourable Permanent Forum members,  
Indigenous representatives,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen

It is an honour to address you today on behalf of the Interagency Support Group (IASG), which the UN Human Rights Office is currently chairing together with the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum, and to share with you some updates on the implementation of the Outcome Document.

Some seven months ago, in September 2014, we gathered here in New York at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples to recommit to implementation of the Declaration and other human rights standards aimed at ending discrimination against -- and exclusion of -- indigenous peoples.

A recurrent theme of discussion at that time was the need for coordinated efforts -- including among UN agencies -- to translate the Outcome of the Conference into meaningful change at the national level.

Paragraph 31 of the Outcome Document asks the Secretary-General to develop a system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the objectives of the Declaration.

That system-wide action plan is to be developed with the support of the Inter-Agency Support Group and in close consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples themselves, and with Member States. A progress report is to be provided to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, through the Economic and Social Council.

At its Annual Meeting in December 2014, the Inter-Agency Support Group discussed the modalities for developing the action plan and established a Working Group, tasked to handle the work.

The action plan itself must be grounded in a number of core documents – namely, the Declaration, the Outcome Document of the World Conference, ILO Convention No. 169 and the Alta document.

While respecting the mandates of the various implementing UN agencies, the action plan must be more than a laundry list of activities; it needs to be strategic, with specific goals, targets and indicators.

Ultimately, the plan must be capable of serving as a tool that facilitates UN efforts while ensuring better coordination and coherence among the respective agencies involved. In this respect, we want to draw on the experiences gained in developing and implementing other inter-agency frameworks, such as System-wide action plans on youth and on gender, as well as national level strategic planning documents such as the UNDAFs.

And it's important to keep bear in mind that States remain the principal duty bearers for the promotion and protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights. So an important goal of the action plan must be to provide support to States – so that *they* can better achieve the objectives of the Declaration by adopting and implementing legal frameworks, policies and programmes.

As we are all aware, consultation with indigenous peoples on the implementation of the Outcome Document is essential. Consistent with this principle, the Outcome Document specifies that the development of the Action Plan must involve consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples themselves.

In this connection, a questionnaire was shared with both States and indigenous peoples seeking their input, including on priority areas. Areas identified include the following:

- ensuring effective participation of indigenous peoples in UN and development processes;
- supporting development of national action plans and other programmes to further the Declaration at national level;
- promoting the principle of free, prior and informed consent in all processes and decisions concerning indigenous peoples;
- supporting capacity development for UN, State and non-State actors; and
- jointly collecting disaggregated data on issues affecting indigenous peoples.

The Inter-Agency Support Group will also follow the discussions here closely for relevant inputs from indigenous peoples as well as from Member States.

Distinguished colleagues,

We are fully committed to developing an action plan that lives up to both the spirit and the letter of the Outcome Document agreed in 2014; an action plan that truly reflects key concerns of indigenous peoples; and one that provides the framework for more effective, more coherent and better coordinated UN action to secure the rights of indigenous peoples around the world.

We look forward to working with you to these ends in the months ahead.

Thank you.