

Item 12 – Future work of the Permanent Forum

Australia Joint Statement – Item 12 – Future Work

Thank you, Madam Chair

I am pleased to speak on behalf of Australia and my own country, Canada. With the indulgence of the Chair, we wish to make a statement on a different category of future work, Indigenous participation in the context of the UN.

After almost two years of consultations and negotiations, our countries were disappointed that a system for enhanced Indigenous participation at the UN was not established during the 71st Session of the General Assembly.

We wish to encourage the Permanent Forum to continue the discussion on Indigenous participation in advance of the general Assembly's next consideration of this issue.

In parallel, our countries are working together with Indigenous partners to develop concrete options for consideration when the resolution comes up for discussion again.

In the spirit of promoting Indigenous participation, we have kept this statement short in order to ensure that more time is available for Indigenous Representatives to speak.

Thank you, Madam Chair.