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**Half day discussion on indigenous peoples  
24<sup>th</sup> session, Human Rights Council  
Delivered by Ambassador Amanda Ellis  
17 September 2013**

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Thank you Madame Chair

We welcome the discussion today on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. While this is an event that will take place in New York, we believe it is important that we as a Council are engaged and following its progress. We believe that the work of the Council, through its resolutions, the work of the Expert Mechanism and the Special Rapporteur is of great relevance – it can also serve as a useful means for identifying the key human rights issues of central concern to indigenous peoples.

New Zealand joins with others in emphasising the need to ensure an inclusive World Conference and preparatory process. New Zealand has worked hard with colleagues in New York to ensure participation of indigenous peoples at all stages of the process, and we will continue to do so. Most recently, and providing a practical example, we joined other missions in urging the Secretary General to circulate the Alta document as a formal UN document. We consider that the document, as a reflection of the views and recommendations of indigenous peoples, is of relevance and value to the World Conference process.

We welcome the update today provided by the Indigenous Global Coordinating Group, and of their considerable efforts to date. We also want to recognise and to highlight that we must also engage and listen to indigenous peoples outside the Indigenous Coordinating Group and the Alta process who also have ideas about the World Conference, whether domestically or internationally. In this regard, we would be interested to hear the panel's views about how we can ensure as broad a representation as possible of all indigenous groups and organisations in the process, particularly those who may not be as organised or prominent as the GCG.

Finally, New Zealand welcomes the opportunity, through participation in the World Conference, to share perspectives and best practices on the realisation of the rights of indigenous peoples, including their rights to pursue the objectives of the Declaration on

the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We thank the panellists for their thoughts and suggestions today on possible key issues, which will be helpful inputs for us as we turn our attention to the substance of World Conference.