

Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,
Alta, Norway

Agenda Item 3: Reports from the Regions and Caucus Preparatory Meeting

The Global Indigenous Youth Caucus

Thank you Mr. Chairman; on behalf of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus and the Youth representatives of the Global Indigenous Coordinating Group (GCG), we have the honor to report and inform about the Indigenous Youth preparatory process to this point on the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

As a continuation of the work from the United Nations Permanent Forums the GIYC selected 3 representatives for the GCG to act as the GIYC representatives. Before that, the Co-chair of the GIYC acted as an interim representative in the GCG. The GIYC representatives continue to take active part in the GCG preparatory processes towards the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly with a specific objective to bring forward the GIYC views and needs in these preparatory processes. Persevering through challenges in these preparatory processes in regards to securing the full and effective participation of Indigenous Youths, we have held and maintained a preparatory meeting and a process, and have selected 2 representatives for the Draft Editorial Group of the Alta Declaration. Indigenous Youths from the seven regions are present and are engaging in full and equal participation at this Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference.

Mr. Chair, *the Indigenous Youth preparatory meeting welcomes in its declaration*, the opportunity to raise the voices of Indigenous Youth as part of the preparatory process of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples as approved in GA Resolution A/65/198, *it welcomes further GA Resolution A/66/296* specifying the modalities of participation by Indigenous Peoples in the World Conference. *In the declaration the Youth preparatory meeting is convinced* the World Conference has the potential for the full and equal participation of Indigenous Nations and Peoples by employing the principles of free, prior and informed consent and that it is an invaluable opportunity to effectuate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

The Global Indigenous Youth Preparatory Meeting was held in Anár (Inari, Finland) April 9 to 11, 2013. Indigenous Youth representatives from Africa, Arctic, Asia, Central & South America

and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe & Russian Federation & Central Asia and Transcaucasia, North America, and the Pacific gathered to discuss the process of the High-Level Plenary Meeting and to make and agree on an outcome document that would highlight the views and positions of the Indigenous Youths in this process. The meeting was co-hosted by the Finnish Sámi Youth (FSY) organization and therefore the GIYC would like to express special gratitude to FSY for their hard work for allowing us the opportunity to have the meeting in the Sámi Peoples traditional lands. As the budget for the Indigenous Youth preparatory meeting was limited, the GIYC was creative and we ensured that the Indigenous Youth had the necessary possibilities to get their voice heard and be able to affect the Indigenous Youth Preparatory Meeting's outcome document through our regional networks and through our main email list.

The Inari Declaration finalized and adopted by the Youth preparatory meeting contains some key topics and recommendations that the Indigenous Youth have highlighted as following;

1. **Right to Full and Effective Participation**
2. **Governance and Sovereignty**
3. **Identity**
4. **Education**
5. **Traditional Livelihood, Lands and Territories**
6. **Forms of Violence**
7. **Health**

Under each of these topics, we reaffirmed the critical principles and further proposed action-orientated recommendations to be implemented by the States, UN Agencies, Indigenous organizations and other relevant actors. However, we would like to emphasize that those recommendations are of great importance to us, as Indigenous Peoples and youth, and therefore should be implemented regardless of the High-Level Plenary Meeting. We sincerely

invite all to review the Inari Youth Declaration and start the process of implementation with Indigenous youth's full and equal participation.

Mr. Chair, in the end we would like to highlight the importance of the full and effective participation of the Indigenous Nations and Peoples including youth in the whole process of the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly to be known as a World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

We the Global Indigenous Youth Preparatory Process still see the potential of the High Level Plenary Meeting if it is based on Free Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Nations and Peoples as equal participants in the international diplomatic process and if the wide-open participation of Indigenous Nations and Peoples are proactively sought. We further continue to support that any resulting document protect and advance the inalienable and fundamental rights we have as Indigenous Nations and Peoples including our right to self-determination. We acknowledge that the GIYC is attending this Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference to participate as equal to the other regional and women's caucuses. Thank you Mr. Chair.