

# SWEDEN



## STATEMENT

on behalf of Sweden

by

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at the

**13<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

**under the agenda item**

**“Discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous People”**

**United Nations  
New York**

**19 May 2014**

Thank you Ms./Mr. Chair,

My delegation is honoured to participate in the thirteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

For decades, Sweden have been a firm supporter of the rights of indigenous peoples as an integral part of our efforts to promote free, democratic societies based on the rule of law and equal rights for all. Sweden remains strongly committed to enhancing the rights of indigenous peoples, not only for the Sami people, but world-wide, by promoting the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Sweden has a longstanding history of engagement and support to the UN system as a whole and continues to support the mandates and mechanisms set in place in the UN system to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples.

Ms./Mr. Chair,

Despite the significant progress made, not least over the last decade, indigenous peoples around the world continue to face injustices and live in hardship due to the failure of States to recognize and uphold their rights. Although indigenous peoples and individuals around the world have enormous potential and could play an important role in tackling global problems, such as climate change, many of them remain among the most marginalized groups in their countries suffering from poverty, exclusion from decision-making processes and subjection to violence.

There is clearly a significant gap between the ideals of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the implementation on the ground. This gap must be addressed.

Ms. /Mr. Chair,

Sweden believes that the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples presents an important opportunity to bring indigenous peoples' rights to the attention of the international community and to generate the needed political will.

It is our hope that the World Conference, which is organized in order for the international community to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples, will result in a concise action oriented outcome document.

On that note, Sweden would like to stress that the full and effective participation and consultation of indigenous peoples through all stages of the conference including in the development of the outcome document is imperative to the success of the conference. Participation in decision-making processes is of fundamental importance for the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples and is a core element of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Sweden would therefore like to express its concern regarding the lack of progress so far in terms of the convening of an inclusive informal process of consultations.

Ms./Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, Sweden reiterates its appreciation and support for the work done by indigenous peoples, States, regional organizations, NGOs and the different UN Mechanisms, notably the Permanent Forum, in advancing indigenous rights, and look forward to future collaboration.

I thank you, Ms. /Mr Chair.