

13th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
May 12 - 23, 2014 New York City, United States
Item 6: Half-day discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Delivered by: Ghazali Ohorella

Tabea Madam Chair,

Distinguished Indigenous relatives, delegates, members of the Forum,

the Indigenous Peoples of the Pacific region note that the adoption of the UN Declaration in 2007, was a major achievement for the recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and that it is the result of an inclusive and transparent process of dialogue and negotiation among and between Member States and Indigenous Peoples.

With the call for this this high-level plenary meeting the Pacific region recognizes that the World Conference provides an opportunity for the United Nations to continue this established practice, to ensure implementation of these minimum standards of the Declaration by securing Indigenous Peoples' full and effective participation throughout all stages of the World Conference.

The Pacific reiterates that the organizational framework proposed in the PGA's (President of the General Assembly's) Aide Memoire of March 21st is an acceptable process. We are therefore disappointed with the stance of certain member States to not ensure the full, effective, and equal participation of Indigenous Peoples.

In this regard we emphasize this Forum's call for partnership and mutual respect between States and Indigenous Peoples, emphasizing that States should consult and cooperate in good faith with Indigenous Peoples if the international community wishes to arrive at a constructive result with genuine improvement of the status of the world's Indigenous Peoples "equal, direct and meaningful participation by Indigenous Peoples throughout all stages of the World Conference is essential".

Through this body, we urge the PGA to take leadership and take the necessary measures to secure the full, effective, direct and equal participation of Indigenous Peoples, during the consultations on the outcome document and organizational matters of the World Conference consistent with past practices.

This must be accommodated in spirit with the provisions enshrined in the modalities resolution, and consistent with the right of Indigenous Peoples to participate in decision-making that would affect our rights as affirmed in article 18 of the UN Declaration.

Although other collectives may call for an immediate cancellation of the World Conference, we underscore today's statement of the GCG and continue to be available and work with the United Nations and its member States to ensure a meaningful process, and emphasize that we do not accept anything less than the full, effective, direct and equal participation of Indigenous Peoples in this process including organizational matters and the consultations on the outcome document of this World Conference.

Horomate,

Thank you, Madam Chair