

**United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Twelfth Session – United Nations Headquarters, New York
May 20-31, 2013**

AGENDA ITEM 6: Discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Intervention on behalf of the Indigenous global coordinating group

Delivered by Tracey Castro Whare

He mihi atu ki te whenua e noho ana, ki te whare e tu nei me nga tangata whenua kua huihui mai nei i tenei ra.

I am delivering this intervention on behalf of the Indigenous global coordinating group (aka the GCG). The GCG was established in response to the GA resolution¹ that created the high level plenary meeting of the GA to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The GCG is made up of the 7 indigenous regions of the world, Africa, the Arctic, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, the Pacific and Russia as well as two caucuses, the Indigenous women's caucus and the Indigenous youth caucus. The objective of the GCG is to advocate for and promote the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in the preparatory processes leading up to the Conference, as well as during and after the Conference.

The GCG makes the following recommendations:

1. That the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples be the normative framework for the Conference. In doing so the UN will ensure that the GA modalities resolution for the Conference is given the widest and most generous interpretation possible to achieve the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples.
2. Given the importance of the role of co-facilitators in ensuring the dissemination of information to States and Indigenous Peoples and in building consensus that the PGA appoint a State facilitator and an Indigenous facilitator as per previous practice particularly before the period when the drafting of the Conference outcome document will be undertaken.
3. That the decision on the themes of the Conference be deferred until after the upcoming global preparatory conference of Indigenous Peoples in Alta, to be held from 10 - 12 June 2013. This will ensure that the work undertaken by Indigenous Peoples thus far in the regional and caucus preparatory meetings, as well as the upcoming global preparatory conference of Indigenous Peoples in Alta, will inform States of the priorities that Indigenous Peoples have determined and that need to be addressed by the Conference.
4. That UN funds, programs and specialized agencies actively engage in the process leading to the Conference by prioritizing concrete ways as to how they can support the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in this process, including financial support.

¹ A/C.3/65/L.22/Rev.1

5. That States consult with Indigenous Peoples nationally, regionally and internationally after the Alta conference in order to build consensus on the themes and recommendations of the Conference. Further that States that have yet to financially support indigenous preparatory activities do so as a matter of urgency in order to ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in this process. To date only the governments of Finland, Norway and Sweden have financially supported or pledged to support Indigenous Peoples' preparatory activities.
6. That the US government brief their Embassies on the Conference so they can ensure the expeditious processing of visa applications from Indigenous Peoples to attend the Conference in September 2014.
7. That the informal interactive hearing to be organized by the PGA no later than June 2014 be held back to back but separate from the 13th PF session. This will ensure that Indigenous Peoples attending the PF can also participate in the informal interactive hearings without the need to return to New York at a later date and incur further travel expenses.

Thank you Mr/Madam Chair.