

Agenda Item 3: World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Sami Parliament in Norway, by Adviser Ms Inger Johanne Mudenia



Chairperson,

Allow me to congratulate you on your election as chair.

I'm giving this statement on behalf of the Sami Parliament in Norway.

As stated during the 10th session of the Permanent Forum, the Sami Parliament of Norway welcomes the General Assembly's decision to organize a World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014.

We are committed to the process, and are ready to work together with member states, the UN system, our indigenous brothers and sisters and others to achieve a successful World Conference. It is of the most important to ensure indigenous peoples full and effective participation in processes related to the conference.

We are glad to be able to present the Inari Declaration within short time, where the Sami people encourages to promote and advocate an action orientated outcome from the World Conference.

Chairperson,

As you are aware, the Sami Parliament of Norway has extended an invitation to indigenous peoples to attend a preparatory meeting, to be held in Alta, Norway in June 2013, to consolidate indigenous peoples' strategies for and contributions to the World Conference. It will be held from 8th to 13th June 2013.

The Sami Parliament would like to express our gratitude to the President of the General Assembly for requesting Ambassador De Alba and Mr. John Henriksen to conduct inclusive and informal consultations on his behalf on the modalities of the World Conference.

The Sami Parliament fully supports the Global Coordinating Group's recommendations concerning the modalities of the World Conference. The Sami Parliament would like to express our sincere thanks to the members of the Indigenous Global Coordinating Group for their commitment and hard work.

Chairperson,

In principle the Sami Parliament strongly supports the recommendations on the World Conference put forward by the Permanent Forum at its 11th session and we endorse the Indigenous Global coordinating groups statement presented here earlier today. We encourages other indigenous peoples and the states also to support the Permanent Forums recommendation for ensuring a common platform for the following processes regarding the World Conference.

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The question of how do we secure adequate funding for indigenous peoples' participation in the preparatory process and the World Conference itself represent an enormous challenge. We acknowledge and thank the Global Coordinating Group for establishing a fundraising committee.

Furthermore, we appreciate the good dialog with the Norwegian government and for their support in the process and preparations.

The Sami Parliament calls upon Members States and others to financially support the fundraising efforts of the indigenous fundraising committee and others, because adequate funding for indigenous peoples' participation is a prerequisite for a successful World Conference.

Thank you!