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INTERVENCION DEL JEFE DE LA UNIDAD DE COORDINACION DE POLITICAS INDIGENAS

DON MATIAS ABOGABIR

**12° Foro Permanente de Asuntos Indígenas
Tema 6**

Cotejar con versión leída

Nueva York, 28 de mayo de 2013

STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE COORDINATING UNIT FOR INDIGENOUS POLICIES

MR. MATIAS ABOGABIR

12° UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Agenda item 6

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New York, May 28, 2013

Mr. Chairman,

I should like, through you, to greet those attending this Forum and to reiterate my country's commitment to the holding in 2014 of the high-level meeting or World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

In our view, this will be an opportunity to share experiences, views and best practices regarding respect for the rights of indigenous peoples, including attainment of the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In this connection, I should mention that the indigenous policy of the Government of President Sebastián Piñera supports this kind of initiative, as it recognizes Chile as a multicultural country which treasures the richness that indigenous peoples contribute to our country.

In this framework, our efforts have focused on ensuring that indigenous peoples have access to opportunities allowing them to develop, with full respect for their rights, traditions, culture and identity: what we call Development with Identity. This involves a positive, participatory and comprehensive approach to indigenous issues, designed to enhance and publicize the contribution which indigenous culture represents for Chile.

Our Government has been doing everything possible to promote and expand the rights of indigenous peoples and to implement the recommendations of the international community. This is demonstrated by the great effort accomplished regarding Consultation and participation, which has enabled us to carry out more than 20 consultations, from 2010, in connection to national and local projects. In the same sense, we have embarked from 2011 with the indigenous peoples in a process to establish a new regulation for the indigenous consultation, based on a consensus with the indigenous peoples, which respects their traditions and cosmovision.

I take this opportunity to reiterate the importance that the Chilean's Government attributes to the indigenous's participation in the World Conference and our commitment to make indigenous presence as large and as representative as possible.

In this connection, we should like to inform this Forum that the United Nations system together with the Chilean Government is implementing a project involving the creation of spaces for dialogue and capacity-building of representatives of indigenous peoples in Chile.

The goal of the project is to make indigenous representatives more aware of the rights established in international instruments, the communications from organs monitoring such instruments and the recommendations made by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The project will also assist in the choice of representatives to attend the World Conference, supporting the active involvement of the indigenous representatives – and particularly women and young people – in the discussions to be held.

As we have stated it before, our Government firmly believes that a crucial element for the achievement of a sound and efficient indigenous institutionality is the real and effective participation on indigenous peoples in decision-making in a prior, free and informed way.

Mr. President,

If indigenous participation is our main goal, and that we expect other delegations to share, second comes the exchange of good practices and efforts aimed at implementing in a consensual manner ILO Covenant 169, the UNDRIP, the right to consultation and participation and the recommendations of the international system. As a Government it is in those issues that we intend to center our participation in the World Conference.

Thank you.