

AGENDA ITEM 3: World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Intervention on behalf of the Indigenous global coordinating group

Delivered by Tracey Castro Whare

Greetings to the members of the EMRIP and to all participants.

My name is Tracey Castro Whare and I am Maori from Aotearoa/New Zealand. 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 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The GCG is made up of the 7 Indigenous regions of the world, Africa, the Arctic, Asia, Latin America, North America, the Pacific and Russia as well as two caucuses, the indigenous women and youth. The objective of the GCG is to ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous peoples in the preparatory processes leading up to the World Conference as well as during and after the Conference.

Since the establishment of the GCG following a brainstorming meeting in January, it has met twice, in March and May of this year. It has defined its terms of reference, formed a fundraising committee as well as a communications group. Members of the GCG have also engaged directly with States to affirm their support. The GCG also works closely with the Indigenous co-facilitator, Mr. John Henriksen. Tomorrow Tuesday 10 July the GCG will hold a side event at 1.15pm to provide information on the World Conference and engage in dialogue with participants. We invite you all to attend.

The GCG is optimistic about its ability to positively influence the process and is pleased with what it has been able to achieve thus far. We are heartened by the support we have found amongst some States and UN funds, programs and specialized agencies and count these relationships as examples of good practices of those who support the principle of full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in this process. In particular we would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for appointing Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba, Permanent Representative of Mexico, and Mr. John Henriksen, International Representative of the Sami Parliament of Norway, to conduct inclusive consultations with Member States and representatives of Indigenous Peoples on matters related to the World Conference.

Given the GA resolution specifically invites the President of the GA to conduct consultations in the framework of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in order to determine the modalities of the World Conference; the GCG makes the following 15 recommendations:

1. That the EMRIP recommend to the General Assembly that the World Conference be held in September 2014 for three days. We note that the 11th session of the PF recommended a two day World Conference. We believe a three day conference would allow sufficient time to fully address the issues related to Indigenous peoples.
2. That the World Conference be funded within existing UN budgetary resources and voluntary contributions.
3. That all meetings of the World Conference be they plenary sessions, round table discussions or interactive dialogues be co-chaired by representatives of member States and Indigenous Peoples.
4. That participation of Indigenous Peoples within the Conference include member States, Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous Peoples' governance institutions, and observers and representatives of entities of the UN system, as well as representatives of civil society.

¹ A/C.3/65/L.22/Rev.1

5. That prior to the World Conference, a 5 day thematic interactive hearing be held separate to the EMRIP in order to facilitate the development of a concise action-oriented outcome document. We note that the 11th session of the PF recommended a two day thematic interactive hearing. We believe five days is better because it allows for more in depth discussion and greater participation. Past experience has also shown us that sufficient time is critical when discussing potentially difficult issues.
6. That a drafting committee, comprising of representatives of member States and Indigenous Peoples be established, in order to draft the outcome document of the World Conference, taking into account the reports of the regional and global preparatory processes.
7. We reiterate the importance that outcome documents of Indigenous preparatory processes leading up to the World Conference be official documents at the World Conference in order to recognize the global, regional and local perspectives of Indigenous Peoples.
8. That UN funds and programs and the specialized agencies of the UN actively engage in the process leading up to the World Conference by prioritizing concrete ways as to how they can support the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in the World Conference, including financial support.
9. That the UNDP prepare a special report for the World Conference on the Millennium Development Goals explaining how the MDG's relate to the realization of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and that this report disaggregate statistics in relation to Indigenous women, youth and children as well as address associated thematic issues such as economic sustainability and youth employment.
10. That other UN agencies undertake empirical studies based on the priority themes identified by Indigenous Peoples and that such studies also be based on disaggregated statistics.
11. That the IFAD actively support Indigenous preparatory processes of the World Conference.
12. That an evaluation of the gains and failings of the plan of action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples (2005-2014) be included in the work of the World Conference, such evaluation to specifically address Indigenous women, children and youth.
13. That the mandate of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations be expanded so that it can assist representatives of Indigenous Peoples to participate at the World Conference, including the preparatory process, and that member States and others, including the private sector, donate funds to the Voluntary Fund.
14. That accreditation to the World Conference and the preparatory processes needs to realize the principle of full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and that Indigenous Peoples not organized as non-governmental organizations, including nations, councils, parliaments and governments, as well as traditional governments be accredited to participate in the World Conference. This is in keeping with Articles 18 and 41 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
15. Subject to the previous caveats we are satisfied with the recommendations of the 11th session of the Permanent Forum on the World Conference and ask the EMRIP to support those recommendations.

We trust that our level of commitment to this process reflects the seriousness by which we take our responsibilities and encourages UN funds, programs and specialized agencies and member States to equally commit themselves to the principle of full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and the ultimate success of the World Conference.

Thank you Mr/Madam Chair.