



**Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Persons
Item 3: World Conference on Indigenous Peoples
Delivered by Carl Reaich
7 July 2014**

Mr. Chair

New Zealand joins with others in emphasising the need to ensure an inclusive World Conference on Indigenous Peoples this year. Along with a number of other member states, we have worked hard to ensure the full and equal participation of indigenous peoples at all stages of the process, and will continue to do so.

Despite a number of initial setbacks, we have been pleased in recent weeks with the progress that has been made by the President of the General Assembly with the preparatory process for the Conference. [If outcome document is released before Monday we can provide an additional comment here].

New Zealand remains committed to the negotiation of an outcome document which is consistent with the spirit and text of resolution 66/296 and Article 18 of the UN Declaration on the Rights on Indigenous Peoples. We look forward to engaging with states and indigenous peoples once the first draft of the document is made available.

The Conference provides a crucial opportunity for member states and indigenous peoples to have a frank and productive conversation on issues which affect us all. It is our hope that at the conclusion of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, the Conference will provide guidance for improving relationships between indigenous peoples and States in decades to come.

We look forward to the opportunity to share perspectives and best practices on the realisation of the rights of indigenous people at the Conference, in a spirit of collaboration and partnership.

Thank you Mr. Chair