

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 12th session  
Item 6, The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples  
The Global Indigenous Youth Caucus

I thank you Mr. Chairman;

On behalf of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus Youth representatives in the Global Indigenous Coordinating Group (GCG), I have honor to report and inform about the Indigenous Youth preparatory process to this point on the high-level plenary meeting of the UN General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The GIYC selected last year at the same time when the 11<sup>th</sup> UNPFII session was held, 3 representatives for the GCG to act as a GIYC representatives. Before that, the Co-chair of the GIYC acted as an interim representative in the GCG. The Global Indigenous Youth Caucus representatives have taken and continue to take actively part in GCG preparatory processes towards the high-level plenary meeting of the UN General Assembly with a specific objective to bring forward the GIYC views and needs in these preparatory processes. Even though some challenges have occurred in this preparatory process on securing the Indigenous Youths full and effective participation, I am happy to say that we were able to have our own preparatory meeting and a process, as one of the examples said, we have 2 representatives in the Draft Editorial Group of the Alta Declaration. I also recognize that Indigenous Youths participation to the Alta Conference seems to be secured, as the regions have said to include Indigenous Youth in the official delegations selected by the region. One of the most crucial things towards Alta is that the Indigenous Youth delegates can work and form a separate Youth Caucus and speak on behalf of the Youth.

Mr. Chair

*The Indigenous Youth preparatory meeting welcomes in its declaration, the opportunity to raise the voices of Indigenous youth as part of the preparatory process of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples as approved in GA Resolution A/65/198, it welcomes further GA Resolution A/66/296 specifying the modalities of participation by Indigenous Peoples in the World Conference. In the declaration the Youth preparatory meeting is convinced the World Conference has the potential for the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples by employing the*

principles of free, prior and informed consent and that it is an invaluable opportunity to effectuate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, The Global Indigenous youth preparatory meeting was held in Anár (Inari, Finland) between 9<sup>th</sup>- 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2013. We had representatives of Indigenous youth from Africa, Arctic, Asia, Central & South America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe & Russian Federation & Central Asia and Transcaucasia, North America, and the Pacific to discuss the process of the high-level plenary meeting and to make and agree on an outcome document that would highlight the Indigenous Youths views and positions on this process. The meeting was co-hosted by the Finnish Sámi Youth (FSY) organization and therefore the GIYC would like to express special gratitude to FSY for their hard work for allowing us to be able to have the meeting in Sámi people traditional lands. As the budget for the Indigenous Youth preparatory meeting was limited, the GIYC was creative and we ensured that the Indigenous Youth had the necessary possibilities to get their voice heard and be able to effect the Indigenous Youth preparatory meetings outcome document through our regional networks and through our main email list.

The Inari declaration finalized and adopted by the Youth preparatory meeting contains some key topics and recommendations that the Indigenous youth have highlighted as following;

1. **Right to Full and Effective Participation**
2. **Governance and Sovereignty**
3. **Identity**
4. **Education**
5. **Traditional Livelihood, Lands and Territories**
6. **Forms of Violence**
7. **Health**

Mr. Chair

In the end I would like to highlight the importance of the full and effective participation of the Indigenous Peoples including youth in the whole process of the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly to be known as a World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

I thank you Mr. Chair.