

**United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Twelfth Session – New York
18-31 May 2013**

Agenda Item 6: Discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Joint Intervention Delivered by Ms Kirsten Gray on behalf of the Indigenous People's Organisation's (IPO) Network of Australia:

National Congress of Australia's First Peoples

National Native Title Council (NNTC)

Foundation for Indigenous Recovery and Development Australia (FIRDA)

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (NATSILS)

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)

Thank you Mr/Madam Chairperson

Before I proceed, the Indigenous Peoples Organisation (IPO) Network of Australia provides the following recommendations to this agenda item:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

We recommend that the Permanent Forum through ECOSOC:

- **Pursue as an outcome of the WCIP2014 the appointment of Indigenous human rights experts to relevant treaty bodies such as the Human Rights Council.**
- **Pursue as an outcome of the WCIP2014 that mandatory reporting of all Member States on Indigenous Peoples rights as outlined in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is incorporated into the Universal Review Process.**
- **Strongly encourage all UN Member States to effectively engage in all preparatory processes leading into the WCIP in good faith and demonstrate their commitment to achieving the proposed outcomes as outlined in the UN General Assembly resolutions regarding the WCIP2014. This includes, but is not limited to, providing financial support for Indigenous participation at WCIP 2014.**
- **Draw on resolutions 18/8 and 6/36 of the Human Rights Council and resolution 2000/22 of the Economic and Social Council in developing accreditation processes for the WCIP2014.**

Mr/Madam Chair

The IPO Network of Australia notes the work that has taken place to date in preparation for the high level plenary session of the United Nations General Assembly to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP2014) scheduled for New York in September 2014.

However it is disappointing to see the lack of engagement by States in the Pacific region, and the absence of any support to Indigenous Peoples in the region for the preparations for the World Conference. Despite this we remain committed to the WCIP planning processes and continue to participate in these preparations.

We therefore call on the Permanent Forum, through resolution of ECOSOC, to strongly encourage all UN Member States to engage in all preparatory processes leading to the WCIP in good faith with Indigenous Peoples' representative bodies, and to demonstrate their commitment to achieving the proposed outcomes as outlined in the UN General Assembly resolutions regarding the WCIP2014.

The IPO Network urges all States, and in particular Australia, to respect the resolution of the General Assembly and to provide adequate financial contributions to support Indigenous participation at WCIP 2014.

The IPO Network of Australia also wishes to reaffirm our support for Mr John Henriksen and Ambassador de Alba as co-facilitators for the WCIP2014.

PACIFIC PREPARATORY MEETING

A network of Indigenous Peoples worked collaboratively with the Global Coordinating Group, to conduct the Preparatory Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples of the Pacific on the WCIP2014, which was held in Sydney on 19-21 March 2013.

This meeting brought together approximately 70 delegates from across the Pacific Region to discuss critical issues affecting Indigenous Peoples that we would like considered at the WCIP014. Unfortunately all Pacific Island nations were unable to be represented at the meeting in Sydney, but we believe the Meeting Report and the Pacific Declaration of the Preparatory Meeting for Pacific Indigenous Peoples on the WCIP2014 as the outcome documents from that meeting present an accurate reflection of the issues facing Indigenous Peoples across the Pacific.

Delegates at the Pacific Meeting agrees with the General Assembly resolution

- that the WCIP2014 share perspectives and best practices on the full realisation of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including those acknowledged in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and
- and, most importantly, that the conference result in an action-oriented outcome document, respecting fully the views of the Indigenous

Peoples.

Delegates also discussed broader issues around the organisation of and participation in the World Conference by Indigenous Peoples. In determining accreditation processes, Delegates expressed a strong view that Indigenous Peoples participation in the World Conference must be maximised by accrediting Indigenous delegates in the same manner that delegates register to attend the Permanent Forum (resolution 2000/22 of the ECOSOC) or the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (resolution 6/36 of the HRC).

Mr/Madam Chair

Finally, Indigenous Peoples globally have made a significant commitment to ensure that the WCIP2014 is well-informed about the interests and expectations of Indigenous Peoples. We emphasise that the WCIP2014 brings the opportunity for building productive relationships in the ambit of the United Nations between States and the Indigenous Peoples of the world.

Thank you