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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

AGENDA ITEM 6
ON THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

AT THE 13TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON
INDIGENOUS ISSUES

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Madam Chair,

Esteemed members,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of South Africa, we would like to express our appreciation on the clarification of the road map leading to the World Conference as provided by the Special Adviser of the PGA this morning. The deliberations have been informative and fruitful as well as enriching.

We firmly believe in the principle of non-discrimination, based on our Constitution which reaffirms that no one should be discriminated on the basis of their race, colour, creed, age, ethnicity, religion and on any other basis.

Madam Chair,

My delegation appreciates the opportunity to discuss and provide inputs on this agenda item focusing on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. We welcome this opportunity to discuss the process leading to the World Conference in an open, inclusive and transparent manner.

Delegations would need to prepare in advance in order to participate effectively in the envisaged round-table discussions and interactive panel discussions. As a delegation, we think that it would be important for these issues to be concluded, especially the nature and content of such deliberations in order to optimise on the presence of Heads of States in New York on 22 - 23 September 2014.

According to resolution 66/296, the Outcome should be concise, action-oriented and prepared on the basis of consultations with Member States and indigenous peoples; and views emerging from the preparatory process. South Africa fully supports the view of an inclusive process.

Madam Chair,

We need to recognise that we are effectively left with 1 and half months to conclude on these processes.

My delegation would like to propose the following thrusts to inform the themes for the round table discussions and interactive panel discussions at the World Conference:

- Leadership
- Good governance
- Development
- Culture, and
- Administration of justice

In conclusion, my delegation stands ready to assist in ensuring that the World Conference is a success.

Thank you,

Madam Chairperson.