

**Twelfth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
United Nations Headquarters, New York
May 20-31, 2013**

Item 6: Discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Intervention on behalf of the Pacific Caucus.

Delivered by:

Thank you Mr. Chair,

In line with the focus on the WCIP on the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Indigenous peoples of the Pacific wish to contribute to the entire preparatory process of the WCIP. We look forward to an action-oriented outcome document that can decisively make a difference in achieving our aspirations in the exercise of our collective rights.

On March 19-21, 2013, the Indigenous Peoples of the Pacific came together in Sydney in a Preparatory meeting for the WCIP2014. Despite the 80 delegates from across our region, we regret that not all Pacific nations were able to be represented at this meeting, but it is our firm belief that the outcome documents accurately reflects the key issues facing the Indigenous Peoples across our region.

The Pacific preparatory meeting was a conference in which we have shared views on health in the Pacific, we have seen poor justice outcomes for Indigenous Peoples in our region, a very technical presentation on Education, a passionate keynote on violence (including violence against women), a presentation on the Declaration on Indigenous Peoples, overall we conceived a strategy, to capture the focus of the Pacific community for greater respect for and implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Furthermore, we express our appreciation to the Sami Parliament, the Government of Greenland and the Sami Council for their assistance to the Indigenous Global Coordinating Group, and support for the World Conference. We also welcome the Global Indigenous Preparatory Meeting in Alta (Norway) from June 10-12, 2013 and thanks the Sami Parliament of Norway for organizing this meeting. And believe that this meeting will provide the opportunity for Indigenous Peoples to strategize for the upcoming high-level plenary, and identification of the key themes for this meeting.

But, most importantly is that Member States should acknowledge the significant role of the Indigenous Peoples in this UN General Assembly's high-level plenary meeting. The World's Indigenous Peoples are committed to make the World Conference a successful meeting, so should be the UN members, bodies, organizations, and agencies.

Although the WCIP has generated a lot of support, commitment, and debate on issues, from Indigenous Peoples we have to note that there remains a lack of support for and engagement of the UN Member States, and not only those situated the Pacific region. To date only the governments of Finland, Norway and Sweden have financially supported or pledged to support Indigenous Peoples' preparatory activities.

We firmly believe that the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, have important roles to play in the process towards, during and after the World Conference.

Therefore the Indigenous Peoples of the Pacific present the following recommendations to the Permanent Forum:

1. That the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples be the normative framework for the Conference. In doing so the UN will ensure that the GA modalities resolution for the Conference is given the widest and most generous interpretation possible to achieve the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples.
2. Given the importance of the role of co-facilitators in ensuring the dissemination of information to States and Indigenous Peoples and in building consensus that the PGA appoint co-facilitators as per previous practice particularly before the period when drafting of the Conference outcome document will be undertaken.
3. That the decision on the themes of the Conference be deferred until after the upcoming global preparatory conference of Indigenous Peoples in Alta, to be held from 10 - 12 June 2013. This will ensure that the work undertaken by Indigenous Peoples thus far in the regional and caucus preparatory meetings, as well as the upcoming global preparatory conference of Indigenous Peoples in Alta, will inform States of the priorities that Indigenous Peoples have determined and that need to be addressed by the Conference.
4. That UN funds, programs and specialized agencies actively engage in the process

leading to the Conference by prioritizing concrete ways as to how they can support the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in this process, including financial support.

5. That States consult with Indigenous Peoples nationally, regionally and internationally after the Alta conference in order to build consensus on the themes and recommendations of the Conference.
6. States that have yet to financially support indigenous preparatory activities do so as a matter of urgency in order to ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in this process.
7. That the informal interactive hearing to be organized by the President of the General Assembly no later than June 2014 be held back to back but separate from the 13th PF session. This will ensure that Indigenous Peoples attending the PF can also participate in the informal interactive hearings without the need to return to New York at a later date and incur further travel expenses.

Finally, to underline the previous, we follow The Special Rapporteur by saying:

'The WCIP should allow for full and adequate participation by indigenous peoples, in accordance with relevant provisions of the Declaration. We urge flexibility and innovation in the interpretation and application of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly to govern the modalities of the conference, in order to ensure the full and effective indigenous participation in this high-level meeting in accordance with the standards of participation that General Assembly itself affirmed when it adopted the Declaration. Additionally, the outcomes of the World Conference should reinforce, and in no way undermine or go below, the standards of the Declaration'.

Thank you Mr. / Madam Chair.