



EUROPEAN UNION
Permanent Delegation to the United Nations Office
and other international organisations in Geneva

**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
24th session**

Half-day Discussion on indigenous peoples

17 September 2013

EU Intervention

We thank the distinguished speakers and panellists for sharing their views and experiences. Today's discussion at the Human Rights Council will usefully feed into the preparatory process of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples which the EU fully supports. It is essential for the success of the Conference that the indigenous peoples themselves can participate throughout the preparatory process as well as during the Conference and that we all work together. The EU takes note of the recent adoption by indigenous peoples of the outcome document of the Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference held in Alta. We also recall that the GA resolution 66/296 encouraged the participation of indigenous women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities.

The EU seeks to integrate human rights into all aspects of its external policies. The rights of indigenous peoples are raised in the EU's political dialogues with third countries and regional organisations, and at multilateral forums such as the UN. The EU is committed to review and further develop its policy in the run-up to the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

The EU also gives financial support to civil society projects, to indigenous peoples' delegates at UN bodies and relevant activities of the ILO. This year, we have launched a call for proposals under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) with the aim of promoting rights of indigenous peoples.

The EU has always been a staunch supporter of the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration is a key tool for promoting the

rights of indigenous peoples, but the challenge remains in putting it into practice. We would like to ask the panellists their views on how to ensure that the World Conference can indeed contribute to “pursuing the objectives of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” as stated in the GA resolution 66/296.

Thank you Mr President