

**Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**  
13<sup>th</sup> session, 12-23 May 2014

Item 6: Discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

**Arctic Indigenous Caucus**

**Delivered by Ms. Anne Nuorgam, Vice-President of Saami Council**

Madam Chair,

Distinguished Members of the Permanent Forum, Excellencies and Observers,

Before addressing the agenda item concerning the World Conference, the Arctic Indigenous Caucus would like to reiterate that the Arctic Indigenous Caucus is not affiliated with any of the statements made by the so-called Global Indigenous Caucus at this session of the Permanent Forum.

Madam Chair,

The Arctic Indigenous Caucus have welcomed the decision of the UN General Assembly, to hold a World Conference, with the aim of sharing perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights indigenous peoples, and to achieve the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We have been actively involved in the World Conference process, in close cooperation with indigenous peoples from the other regions. We have fully endorsed the nomination of Dr. Mirna Cunningham and Mr. Les Malezer to serve as indigenous facilitators in the process towards the World Conference, subject to the President of the General Assembly being able to establish an acceptable process, by ensuring full, effective, direct and equal participation of indigenous peoples. We remain ready and willing to engage in the process, if these conditions are met.

The Arctic Indigenous Caucus regrets that the President of the General Assembly (PGA) has not yet delivered a final decision on the framework for consultations on the outcome of the Conference, and the outstanding organizational matters, in compliance with the modalities resolution, which the General Assembly adopted in September 2012.

We welcome the fact that the President of the General Assembly – although seriously overdue - has provided a proposed framework for consultations, as presented by Ambassador Crispin Gregoire earlier today. The Arctic Indigenous Caucus will review the latest proposal carefully, and engage in bilateral consultations, before taken a definite position on the latest proposal.

In conclusion, we urge the President of the General Assembly to demonstrate decisive leadership, and establish a framework of consultations that is consistent with the modalities resolution. The processes set out in the modalities resolution must be interpreted consistently with the Declaration; by doing so the principles of transparency, inclusiveness and equality will be upheld.

Madam Chair, thank you for your attention.