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28/4/19

Item 12: Follow-up to the OD of the WCIP

OHCHR statement (P. David, Chief Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section – IPMS)

Thank you and good morning Madam Chair and Forum members, good morning colleagues

- ✓ The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), including its field presences, is carrying out a number of activities and programmes to implement the System-Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (referred as “SWAP”). This ranges from awareness raising to support national dialogues as well as promotion of indigenous participation in the United Nations and other processes, including at country level. For example, OHCHR promotes and supports the IP participation in Colombia’s peace process, the IP participation in Guatemala judicial processes, the IP

- participation in legislative land reform, and the IP participation in land titling in Cambodia.
- ✓ Both at global and country level, OHCHR emphasizes and provides support to the crucial requirements of the principle of Free, prior and informed consent, as spelled out in the Declaration and as most recently understood in the 2018 Study from the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
 - ✓ The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michèle Bachelet, and the Deputy-High Commissioner, Kate Gilmore, regularly highlight the concerns of indigenous peoples during their country visits, in their statements and other parts of their work, with particular focus on indigenous human rights defenders including women;
 - ✓ Similarly the Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights, Andrew Gilmour, highlights threats against indigenous peoples in his reports on reprisals, as he stressed earlier this week on Wednesday to this Forum;

- ✓ In the lead up to the 2018 United Nations Climate Change Conference - COP 24, OHCHR advocated for a human right-based approach to guide global policies and measures designed to address climate change and consistently stressed the importance of ensuring meaningful and informed participation with affected groups, including indigenous peoples;
- ✓ At the same time, lack of implementation and enforcement at country level continue to hamper the full realization of the rights of indigenous peoples. Systematic discrimination, lack of indigenous peoples' inclusion and participation in decision-making, in particular in the context of large-scale projects, extractive industries and legislative processes, the lack of land demarcation and titling, challenges to indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation or in initial contact and increasing violence against indigenous human rights defenders are among the challenges which remain key priorities for OHCHR actions at country level.

- ✓ For more detailed information on OHCHR work to follow-up on the Outcome Document of the WCIP, and in particular, to implement the UN SWAP on indigenous peoples, you are invited to read OHCHR's submission to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues' Questionnaire to the UN System, which is available at the Forum's webpage.