

# United Nations High-level Meeting to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

## (Aotearoa Statement)

New York, 23 September 2014

Delivered by: \_\_\_\_\_

(Check against delivery)

**ITEM:** Roundtable 3- "*Indigenous peoples' lands, territories and resources*".

**MR CHAIR,**

### **Regarding: Reducing Carbon Emissions**

1. In the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Outcome Document, Rev.3. (the **draft Outcome Document**), paragraph 3 reaffirms State commitment to "*consult and cooperate in good faith with indigenous peoples concerned...in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent, before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.*"
2. In this regard, we wish to emphasize in particular the significance of Governments' commitment to co-design meaningful climate change solutions with indigenous peoples. Such good faith collaborative efforts make sound obvious sense in terms of expanding the potential for innovative and creative thinking. Just as importantly, however, such commitment will help avoid further prejudice to indigenous peoples due to the implementation of flawed State legislative or administrative measures (a stark example being the \$600m carbon price loss which Māori sustained subsequent to the New Zealand Government decision to enable cheap foreign Emissions Trading Scheme Units to flood into the country).
3. Mr Chair, the historical cessation of slave trading was a watershed moment for humanity: it sent a strong message that the world would no longer tolerate trading in bad behaviors, particular those that violate human rights. Yet, as a mechanism for trading in what are in essence pollution credits, the Emissions Trading Scheme is exactly that: trading in not only bad behaviors, but behaviors which are profoundly destructive to all life on earth.

Furthermore, the Scheme having yielded “very poor” if not “disastrous” results,<sup>1</sup> is a technical failure as well as an affront to morality.

4. Indigenous peoples are ready to engage with States in the co-design of fairer, more effective mechanisms to reduce our carbon emissions, and urgently transition to clean, renewable energy production (as emphasized at paragraph 7 of the indigenous peoples’ Alta Outcome Document).
5. As key implementation measures, we therefore:
  - a. Strenuously urge all Governments to legislate carbon reduction targets, and establish independent authorities to ensure Government accountability for achieving those targets; and
  - b. We strongly encourage all political parties to treat climate change as a cross-cutting matter of utmost national significance that demands them to collaborate across party platforms in a sustained manner. We encourage political parties to negotiate mutually-acceptable comprehensive, long-term, effective climate change action plans, and commit to their implementation regardless of which Government may be in power.

Thank you Mr Chair.

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<sup>1</sup> See Naomi Klein, “Big green groups are more damaging than climate deniers” (Jason Mark for Earth Island Journal, part of the Guardian Environment Network [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com), Tuesday 10 September 2013). New Zealand’s Ministry for the Environment forecast a 50% increase in New Zealand emissions in the next decade, a situation described as a “disgrace” (see New Zealand Herald – Fallow. B. December 2013).