

New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations



Te Māngai o Aotearoa

600 THIRD AVENUE 14TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10016-1901. USA
TELEPHONE (212) 826 1960 FACSIMILE (212) 758 0827 HOMEPAGE: <http://www.nzembassy.com/newyork>

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New Zealand Statement on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Ms Tara Morton
Second Secretary, New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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New Zealand would like to express our thanks to the President of the General Assembly for his work in requesting His Excellency Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba and Mr John Henriksen to conduct inclusive informal consultations on his behalf on the modalities of the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. New Zealand strongly supports the decision of the President of the General Assembly.

As indigenous peoples indicated last year during this Forum's half day discussion on the World Conference, the success of the World Conference lies in the preparation. We put our trust in Ambassador de Alba and Mr Henriksen to lead us to a highly successful World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

We thank them for beginning discussions on the modalities for the World Conference and for the provision of an information note to guide discussions. As we said by way of preliminary thoughts at the recent initial discussion on modalities, we are flexible as to the timing and date of the World Conference.

The key issue for New Zealand are the arrangements for the participation of indigenous peoples at all stages of the preparation process and during the World Conference itself. Full and active participation of indigenous peoples is something of great importance to New Zealand and something we have been working with colleagues to achieve. The saying during the negotiations on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – "Nothing about us without us" is just as relevant as we move toward preparations for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

We reaffirm our full support for Ambassador de Alba and Mr John Henriksen.

We look forward to hearing the views of indigenous peoples on these questions during today's half day discussion.