

Informal Interactive Hearing on WCIP – UN, NY, 17-18 June 2014

Statement by the Disability Caucus and Indigenous Persons with Disabilities
Global Network

Tuesday, 17 June 2014

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Chairperson, Steering Committee

Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network

Global Disability Caucus

Mr Chair, I thank you and the PGA for giving indigenous persons with disabilities, and indeed persons with disabilities generally an opportunity to voice their issues in this meeting. The concept of inclusion must be fully embraced by all to ensure that no one is left behind, and we as indigenous peoples are not leaving indigenous peoples with disabilities behind.

I wish to highlight here the following documents that have recognised issues concerning and protecting the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities which are useful guidance to this meeting and the coming World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

1. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD):

- Preamble paragraph 'p' on the reference to indigenous persons with disabilities experiencing difficult situations due to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination

2. UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP):

- Articles 21 para 2 and Article 22 para 1 – protection of the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities

3. Alta Outcome Document :

- Preamble, para 7 on equality, non-discrimination and assertion of rights of indigenous persons including persons with disabilities

- Theme 2, paragraph 6 on UN agencies, funds and programmes engaging with advisory groups including persons with disabilities
- Theme 3, para 3 – collect, analyse and disaggregate data to include persons with disabilities

Mr Chair, our issues as indigenous persons with disabilities must not be our issues alone. Instead, issues facing indigenous persons with disabilities must be our collective issue. The Disability Caucus therefore recommends the following:

1. The inclusion of indigenous persons with disabilities in appropriate sections in the outcomes document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The Alta Document, UNDRIP and CRPD provide useful guidelines and reference in this regard.
2. The 7 geopolitical regions of indigenous peoples, Women and Youth Caucus to include indigenous persons with disabilities in their deliberations, recommendations and representation, including at the coming World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

I thank you Mr Chair.