

**Statement by Ghazali Ohorella**

**Pacific Indigenous Caucus**

**Fifteenth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

**Agenda item 4: Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with  
reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

**May 19, 2016, New York City (USA)**

Thank you Mr. Chair, Distinguished members of the Permanent Forum, Representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Member States, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been 8 years, 8 months, and 6 days since the General Assembly adopted the UN Declaration outlining the rights of the world's 370 million Indigenous people and outlawing discrimination against them. The United Nations was transformed that day into a different organization, more engaged and so, of course, much more stronger.

Since the adoption, Indigenous Peoples have conveyed to the United Nations a deep sense of cultural expression, a deep sense of idealism, a deep sense of connection, and a deep sense of collectivism, all built on the fundamental principles of the UN Declaration.

It is with this image that the Pacific caucus will start a worldwide campaign for the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration to be held at September 13th 2017 at 6pm in every time zone, and asks Indigenous Peoples to assist in this campaign, a campaign that celebrates and moves the Declaration forward, to engage Indigenous Peoples around the world, to realize the dreams of our ancestors.

Secondly Mr. Chair,

As we all know, the Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held in Alta, Norway, in June 2013, developed a consensus document. Even though the main purpose of the Áltá process was to serve the World Conference, the Pacific caucus does not believe that the lifespan of the Áltá document is limited to the WCIP process.

This document is a tool for years to come, the paragraphs and principles can be referenced for further advocacy at the international level. The Pacific caucus therefore supports a follow-up conference to the Alta preparatory conference to be held in 2018, to report on the progress made towards implementation of this Indigenous plan of action.

Regarding the 10 year anniversary of the UNDRIP, the Pacific caucus sets the clock for 1 year, 3 months, and 25 days.

Thank you,