

IRELAND

## Human Rights Council 24th Session

### Half-Day discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Mr President,

Ireland thanks the panellists here today for their interesting and insightful contributions to the discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. We welcome the opportunity to have this discussion as an important part of the preparatory process for the World Conference next September. We congratulate those involved in the preparations to date and we wish them well as preparations continue over the coming year.

Ireland firmly believes that human rights and equality should be enjoyed by all, including indigenous peoples. It is appropriate that we focus our attention on the specific human rights issues that concern indigenous peoples to ensure that respect for human rights remains at the core of relationships between indigenous peoples, States and the UN system. Ireland is fully supportive of the World Conference's aim to exchange best practices and perspectives on the realisation of the rights of indigenous peoples.

Indigenous peoples are not a homogenous group. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples calls on States to pay particular attention to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in its implementation. With the World Conference being a manifestation of the implementation of the Declaration, Ireland fully supports the objective of this panel to ensure the equal and full participation of, and consultation with, indigenous women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities. It is important that information about the planning process and how to be involved is made accessible, and that perspectives are taken on board at all stages.

Ireland welcomes the establishment of the Indigenous Global Coordinating Group as well as the indigenous youth and indigenous women's caucus. We also welcome the regional and thematic caucus preparatory meetings that have been organised by indigenous peoples.

Ireland is very pleased to fund the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership which we see as an important mechanism for the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous people. The UNIPP has a vital role to play in developing the ability of indigenous peoples to fully participate in governance and policy processes at the local and national levels. It is also a means to enhance coordination between the UN system and relevant actors, including States and indigenous peoples.

Ireland is hopeful that today's discussion, and discussions in other fora, for the preparation of the Conference will enable the development of further concrete measures to encourage the implementation of the Declaration. The work that is being done to promote and protect the rights of indigenous people will not end once the World Conference is over. Ireland encourages the full and equal participation of all both in the lead up to the Conference and in making use of the experiences and best practices that will be shared during those discussions.

Thank you, Mr. President.