

Human Rights Council 24th regular session, 9 - 27 September 2013

**Clustered Interactive dialogue with Expert Mechanism on the Rights on Indigenous Peoples**

**and Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples**

**18 September 2013**

Statement of European Disability Forum, delivered by Ms Olga Montúfar Contreras

*(English translation of the Spanish spoken statement)*

Distinguished special rapporteur, friends of the Expert Mechanism, members of the panel and members present, on behalf of the caucus of Indigenous persons with disabilities, I send my greetings.

In accordance with the report of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous peoples and its sixth session held here in Geneva, from 8th to 12<sup>th</sup> July , there was a proposal that was also reported to the Human Rights Council: greater technical, financial support should be provided for the participation of Indigenous peoples in the World Conference for the preparatory activities but also for the local and national activities aimed at increasing understanding of the rights and processes of Indigenous peoples prior to the holding of the World Conference.

And there are various forms of participation of Indigenous peoples and this should be available in formats that are accessible for Indigenous peoples with disabilities. This is consistent with the recent setting up of the committee of Indigenous peoples with disabilities.

To various extents, indigenous persons with disabilities have been invisible in the work of mechanisms of the United Nations who deal with Human rights and the situation of Indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities. We have rare information up until now about the Expert mechanism and special rapporteurs have not yet dealt with the concrete situation of Indigenous persons with disabilities.

The right of Indigenous peoples to self-determination must be at the focus of any policy which seeks to promote and protect the right of indigenous persons with disabilities. We have the same rights as the other members of the Indigenous peoples to benefit from self-determination as it is provided for by the Declaration. Both the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are very important as the legal framework.

We must invite States to join this direct consultation because nothing can be done for Indigenous persons with disabilities without them.

Thus, during the preparatory meeting of the World Conference held in Alta Norway, a member of the caucus of Indigenous persons with disabilities was present, which means that the final document is conceived to be an inclusive document. We were pleased to receive notice of the interest of Indigenous peoples to guarantee the equal participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities among the matters that affect Indigenous peoples.

Therefore, we are in favour of the Alta Outcome document and the Permanent Forum report on the situation of Indigenous peoples be integrated in the final resolution of the World Conference. Thank you.