



Tebtebba

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NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN

**Agenda Item 6: Discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples
12th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
UN Headquarters, New York, New York
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STATEMENT BY TEBTEBBA AND THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' GLOBAL NETWORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTS

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Agenda Item, World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

We thank the UN General Assembly for adopting the Resolutions 65/198 and 66/296 which called for the WCIP and decided on the "Organization of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixty ninth session of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples". While what resolutions contain fall short of what indigenous peoples aspired in relation to a World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, we have to do the best with what we have. The 1 and ½ day dedicated by the General Assembly to this and some interactive dialogues before June 2014, obviously, are very inadequate discuss more deeply how to ensure effective implementation of the UNDRIP. Yet, this can be a meaningful and historic process depending on the efforts put by UN Member States, the UN system and indigenous peoples. We should all work towards an action-oriented outcome document which spells more concretely what governments and the UN system will commit towards better and more effective implementation of the UNDRIP.

The challenge for us, indigenous peoples, is how to exert our collective best efforts to have meaningful, interactive dialogues with UN member-states and the UN bodies, programmes and funds. We would like, therefore to share our ideas on what we think should be done to get good results from this process.

First, it is important that the UN demonstrates its commitment to this process and to indigenous peoples and we propose the following;

- 1) the Secretary General should appoint a focal person in the UN Secretariat who will be assigned to oversee this process and ensure that the UN bodies, agencies, programmes, funds and regional commissions of the UN will define more clearly what policies, programmes and funds they will commit to ensure the better implementation of the UNDRIP and all internationally agreed development goals.
- 2) We also call on the Secretary General to prepare a report on how the UN has been implementing the UNDRIP which includes good practices, challenges and lessons learned. The various

- UN entities, especially those who have adopted policies on indigenous peoples, should also make reports on how they have contributed in implementing the UNDRIP.
- 3) We request the office of the President of the General Assembly to bring on board an indigenous person into the office, who will be specifically assigned to coordinate with UN member-states and link them with indigenous peoples to ensure that dialogues will be sustained before, during and after the WCIP.
 - 4) That DESA, the mother body of the Secretariat of UNPFII, should provide additional resources or hire a person, whose role is mainly to address the needs of the Forum and indigenous peoples to engage effectively with the WCIP and related processes.
 - 5) We call on the heads or high-level officials of the UN agencies, bodies, programmes and funds, participate in the WCIP 2014 and present their concrete commitments which will contribute to the action-oriented outcome document.

As far as Member-States are concerned,

- 6) We support the proposal of Ambassador de Alba, that they hold interactive dialogues with indigenous peoples at the national and regional levels. This is consistent with resolution 66/296 which calls on “Governments and indigenous peoples to organize international or regional conferences and other thematic events to contribute to the preparations for the World Conference”.
- 7) We support the recommendation of the same resolution which asked “Member States to consider including representatives of indigenous peoples in their delegations to the World Conference”. This is one concrete way of ensuring effective participation of indigenous peoples and we certainly hope there will be 10 or more governments who will have indigenous persons in their delegations.
- 8) Governments should also present reports on how they are effectively implementing and how their policies, laws are aligned with the UNDRIP, as well as their challenges in doing these.

Finally, we the members of the Indigenous Peoples’ Global Partnership on Climate Change and Forests composed of 17 indigenous peoples organizations and networks in 14 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, commit the following;

- 9) to pursue dialogues with some national governments where our members are.
- 10) to raise the awareness of the UNFCCC and the CBD on the WCIP and encourage their Secretariats to get engaged with this process.
- 11) to actively link the WCIP discussions and results to the processes around the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Open-ended Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. We believe the WCIP should be an opportunity raise the profile of the visions, perspectives, actions and plans of indigenous peoples to implement their own self-determined, sustainable development and to get support from governments, the UN and others for this.
- 12) to promote and implement community-based monitoring and information systems which will monitor closely how governments are implementing their obligations to international human rights law, including the UNDRIP, and the relevant targets and safeguards contained in the CBD, the UNFCCC and the CCD (Convention to Combat Desertification).

Thank you very much.