

Check against delivery

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

11th session, New York

Monday, 14 May 2012

Agenda Item 7:

Half-day discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Sami Parliament of Norway

President Egil Olli

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Members of the Permanent Forum,
Distinguished Representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Governments,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. Chairman,

First of all allow me to congratulate you on your election. Rest assured of our support to you and our full cooperation with you and your colleagues to achieve a successful meeting.

As stated during the last session of the Permanent Forum, the Sami Parliament of Norway welcomes the General Assembly's decision to organize a World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014. We are committed to the process, and we are ready to work together with member states, the UN system, our indigenous brothers and sisters and others to achieve a successful World Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

As you are aware, the Sami Parliament of Norway has extended an invitation to indigenous peoples to attend a preparatory meeting, to be held in Alta, Norway in June 2013, to consolidate indigenous peoples' strategies for and contributions to the World Conference. It will be held from 8 to 13 June 2013. The Preparatory Conference will be planned and organized in close cooperation with the Indigenous Global Coordinating Group.

I would like to use this opportunity to express my deep and sincere thanks to the members of the Indigenous Global Coordinating Group for their commitment and extremely hard work. The group has achieved remarkable results since its creation in January 2012.

Moreover, I would like to thank and congratulate the President of the General Assembly, His Excellency Ambassador Al-Nasser, for requesting His Excellency Ambassador De Alba, Permanent Representative of Mexico, and Mr. John Henriksen, International representative of the Sami Parliament of Norway, to conduct inclusive informal consultations on his behalf on the modalities of the World Conference. I would also like to thank Ambassador De Alba and Mr. Henriksen for accepting to undertake such consultations.

The Sami Parliament welcomes and fully supports the Global Coordinating Group's recommendations concerning the modalities of the World Conference. These recommendations represent minimum terms for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the World Conference. I am confident that the members of the Permanent Forum will include these global consensus recommendations from indigenous peoples in their deliberations.

The Sami Parliament supports the idea of having thematic interactive hearings, well in advance of the World Conference, in order to facilitate the development of a concise action-oriented outcome document. We are also strongly in favor of the recommendation to establish a drafting committee, comprising of representatives of members states and indigenous peoples, in order to draft the outcome document of the World Conference. We support these recommendations because they would result in an open and inclusive process of dialogue and negotiations among and between Members States and Indigenous Peoples.

This would be fully in line with Article 18 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which affirms that indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters affecting them, and Article 41 which underlines that ways and means of ensuring participation of indigenous issues affecting them should be established within the United Nations system.

Mr. Chairman,

The question of how do we secure adequate funding for indigenous peoples' participation in the preparatory process and the World Conference itself represent an enormous challenge. I acknowledge and thank the Global Coordinating Group for establishing a fundraising committee. The Sami Parliament will work closely together with the fundraising committee of the Indigenous Global Coordinating Group, in an attempt to secure adequate funding for indigenous peoples' participation in the process towards the World Conference, including the Preparatory Conference in June 2013.

The Sami Parliament calls upon Members States, including my own country – Norway, and others to financially support the fundraising efforts of the indigenous fundraising committee and others, because adequate funding for indigenous peoples' participation is a prerequisite for a successful World Conference.

Thank you!