

13<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Statement by the Disability Caucus: Tuesday, 20 May 2014

Setareki Macanawai, Chairperson

Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network

Global Disability Caucus

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Madam Chair, distinguished members of the Permanent Forum, excellencies and indigenous brothers and sisters;

I draw the attention of the permanent Forum to a study on the situation of indigenous persons with disabilities, with a particular focus on challenges faced with regard to the full enjoyment of human rights and inclusion in development presented at the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Permanent Forum in May 2013. The study reviewed the situation of indigenous persons with disabilities in the enjoyment of their human rights. It looked at the main relevant legal standards; the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and how those standards interact to protect relevant rights of indigenous persons with disabilities. The study examined some areas which indigenous persons with disabilities believed the enjoyment of their human rights, such as political participation, access to justice, education, language and culture have been discriminated against, and issues specific to indigenous women and children with disabilities deserve greater attention.

Madam Chair, the study concluded that more attention should be paid to the human rights of indigenous persons with disabilities, hence my reference to this particular study and its recommendations at this Permanent Forum, just in case it simply becomes another study undertaken by the Permanent Forum without appropriate actions and follow up. Some of this study's recommendations were made to United Nations agencies and other relevant stakeholders on important ways to increase the genuine, full and effective inclusion and participation of indigenous persons with disabilities. The establishment and development of the capacity of organizations of indigenous persons with disabilities should be supported such as by allocating resources to build the capacity of indigenous peoples to address the needs of indigenous persons with disabilities in their communities. Maximum efforts must be made to ensure that the upcoming high-level plenary meeting to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the Post-2015 Development Agenda address and include the concerns of indigenous persons with disabilities. Madam Chair, as we move forward into the future, we must leave no one behind, particularly us persons with disabilities; indigenous, women, children and youth with disabilities.

I thank you Madam Chair.