

Agenda item 3: World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

INTERVENTION OF AOTEAROA INDIGENOUS RIGHTS TRUST

READ BY FLEUR ADCOCK

Good afternoon members of the EMRIP, indigenous brothers and sisters, States and observers.

The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples is an opportune time to highlight indigenous issues and create a road map to ensure the consistent and ongoing implementation of indigenous rights. However in order for the World Conference to be successful it requires not only political goodwill but also financial resources.

Indigenous peoples have taken a number of steps to ensure they are prepared to fully participate in the World Conference both during the preparatory stages as well as the Conference itself. In particular each indigenous region is preparing to hold a preparatory meeting before the global indigenous preparatory meeting in Alta, Norway in June 2013. We call upon the governments of Australia and New Zealand to financially support the holding of a Pacific indigenous regional preparatory meeting. This meeting will allow the Indigenous peoples of the Pacific to meet, discuss issues of importance to the Pacific and prepare strategies to engage in the World Conference processes. Such support would allow the right of full and effective participation to be effected in reality not just in words.

In addition to this specific request to the governments of Australia and New Zealand we make the following recommendations:

1. Those governments who have called for indigenous participation in the World Conference to be consistent with UN rules and procedures reconsider their position and pose the question in the opposite way i.e. how should the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous now inform the UN rules of procedure in relation to indigenous participation within the UN.
2. That UN organizations and specialized agencies engage in the preparatory process of the World Conference and set aside funds to support indigenous preparatory processes.
3. We support the recommendations tabled by the indigenous global coordinating group.

Thank you Mr/Madam Chair.