

Thank you Chairperson for acknowledging a great warrior
 Billy Frank Jr. in particular for Treaty and the Treaty rights to
 fish. We also bid farewell to another great leader Chief Delbert
 Geron of the Musqueam Coast Salish peoples who also changed
 legal history in Canada
 for the better governance of all
 especially in
 regard to
 "federally
 relationships"

**Statement by International Chief Wilton Littlechild, I.P.C.,
 Chairperson of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
 13th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 12-23 May 2014
 Agenda Item 3: Discussion of good governance consistent with the United Nations
 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, articles 3 to 6 and 46
 12 May 2014**

Good ~~morning~~ ^{afternoon} Madam, Chairperson, Permanent Forum Members and all delegations. ^{First congratulations on your election of office} The topic of Good Governance consistent with UN *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (the UN *Declaration*): articles 3 to 6 and 46, is a very timely discussion. I would like to highlight the relevant outcomes of the recent International Parliamentary Conference on "Parliaments and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" jointly organized by the Plurinational Legislative Assembly of Bolivia and the Inter-Parliamentary Union held from April 7th to 9th, 2014 in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, including the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and the Recommendations for Parliamentary Action. This Declaration affirms both the *Chiapas Declaration* and the *Quebec City Declaration*.

This Declaration highlights the important role that Parliamentarians play in combatting discrimination and upholding the rights of Indigenous, using the UN *Declaration* as a guide for implementing procedures to achieve this role and to promote reconciliation. In particular, the Santa Cruz de la Sierra Declaration urges Parliaments to translate the UN *Declaration* into national law, to promote its awareness among all sectors in society and to work closely with national human rights institutions. The importance of implementing Indigenous peoples' right to free, prior and informed consent is highlighted, as contained in the UN *Declaration* as well as the ILO Convention No. 169. Specifically, it states that:

"We insist that the fundamental objective of all consultation procedures should be to obtain free, prior and informed consent.

We are concerned by the exploitation of indigenous peoples' land, territories and resources without their free, prior and informed consent. We call on industry, private businesses and other parties to uphold the standards contained in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, abide by the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council and follow the Business Guide to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples issued by the United Nations Global Compact."

Furthermore, there are specific recommendations for parliamentary action issued, which relate directly to implementation of article 3 to 6 and 46 of the UN *Declaration*. These recommendations address the following areas of implementation: ^(in support of those principles you just stated)

1. **Promoting the political participation of indigenous peoples** through measures such as sensitization campaigns, emphasizing the participation of Indigenous women, training Indigenous candidates, and maximizing the use of parliament's oversight role to ensure effective implementation of laws pertaining to the rights of Indigenous peoples.

2. **Ensure respect for the principle of free, prior and informed consent** by actions including referential incorporation into domestic legislation, ensuring Indigenous peoples are involved at all levels of decision-making, paying special attention to the full implementation of free, prior and informed consent in relation to extractive industries.
3. **Prepare and adopt National Action Plans to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** by actions such as taking ownership of the UN Declaration, setting a baseline to be able to gauge progress and identifying a funding mechanism to ensure implementation of national action plans.
4. **Take other measures in support of Indigenous peoples' rights**, such as promoting parliaments to discuss the post-2015 agenda, including Indigenous peoples' participation in that agenda; promoting a third UN Decade on Indigenous Peoples; adopting laws to facilitate coordination between Indigenous and State justice systems; highlighting respect for self-determination, freedom of expression and peace in the world.
5. **Request the IPU to pursue its involvement in support of Indigenous peoples' rights** including by facilitating a parliamentary presence at the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, mapping the presence of Indigenous parliamentarians (initially in 72 countries), conducting an audit of parliamentary mechanisms that address Indigenous peoples' issues; and working closely with UN agencies, funds and programmes in all activities that support Indigenous peoples.

These recommendations collectively support good governance of parliaments, in a way that is consistent with the UN Declaration and the advancement of the rights of Indigenous peoples. In addition, discussion took place at this Conference on the need to respect and recognize Treaties and on the idea of instituting an international conflict resolution mechanism.

Finally,

The importance of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples was also emphasized in the Santa Cruz de la Sierra Declaration and Recommendations. ~~I will refer to these in greater detail under Agenda Item 6.~~

in line with what you just mentioned I would note

Hai Hai. Thank you.

W Littlechild IFC

Principles:
 Transparency
 Responsiveness
 Contextual oriented
 Equity and inclusiveness
 Effectiveness and efficiency
 Accountability
 Participation
 Consultative and consent