



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11 August 2011

Excellency,

On 23 May 2011, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in the framework of its Tenth Session, had a first discussion regarding the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples which will take place in 2014 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 65/198.

I have the honour to bring to your attention the main conclusions and recommendations of the Permanent Forum relevant to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples which have been endorsed by the Economic and Social Council at its General Segment last month.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deiss', written in a cursive style.

Joseph Deiss

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum relevant to the Discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

117. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues invited the Office of the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session to participate in an initial dialogue to hear the views of the representatives of indigenous peoples on the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, with the participation of Member States as well as those attending its tenth session.
118. The presidency of the General Assembly stressed that the Permanent Forum has a central role to play and is uniquely qualified to provide input on the modalities for the conference and, at a later stage, on its outcome. In this regard, the Permanent Forum welcomes the opportunity and full responsibility for playing this central role in the preparations for the forthcoming World Conference.
119. The Permanent Forum takes note of the commitment by the presidency of the General Assembly to transmit to all Member States the recommendations and comments resulting from the dialogue held during the tenth session.
120. The Permanent Forum urges the adoption of the modalities for the Conference before the end of 2011, during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, and supports the strong call from indigenous peoples' representatives on the need for urgent action regarding the structuring and initiation of regional preparatory processes for the World Conference.
121. The Permanent Forum affirms that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the primary guide for its collective work and is therefore highly relevant to the forthcoming World Conference. In this regard, the Permanent Forum recalls that in the preamble to the Declaration, the General Assembly solemnly proclaimed its obligation, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to advance indigenous human rights in order to "enhance harmonious and cooperative relations between the State and indigenous peoples, based on principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, non-discrimination and good faith".
122. In "a spirit of partnership and mutual respect", the Forum further emphasizes the important standards set out in articles 18 and 19 of the Declaration, which provide the following: "Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures..." and "States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them." Such equal, direct and meaningful participation by indigenous peoples throughout all stages of the World Conference is essential if the international community is to arrive at a constructive result that will genuinely improve the status and conditions of indigenous peoples worldwide.
123. The Permanent Forum is of the view that the most feasible time to have a broad-based interactive dialogue between Member States and indigenous peoples would be during, after or before its forthcoming annual sessions and that all stages of the preparatory process for the World Conference should be conducted in equal partnership between Member States and indigenous peoples.
124. The Permanent Forum welcomes the initiative of the Government of Mexico and the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean to host the Latin American and Caribbean preparatory meeting on the World Conference in 2012.
125. The Permanent Forum welcomes the invitation extended to indigenous peoples by the Saami Parliament of Norway to attend a preparatory meeting to be held in Alta, Norway, in 2013 to consolidate indigenous peoples' strategies and inputs for the World Conference.
126. The Permanent Forum also welcomes the recommendations made by a wide range of indigenous peoples' caucuses and representatives with respect to the establishment of a global steering committee to conduct the preparatory process with representation of the seven

sociocultural regions, indigenous women and youth, as well as the participation of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Forum itself.

127. The Permanent Forum acknowledges and supports the strong appeal made by indigenous peoples' representatives to Member States, United Nations agencies, in particular the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations under OHCHR, and others to secure funding for the participation of indigenous peoples in the preparatory process and the Conference to be held in 2014.
128. The Permanent Forum calls upon the presidency of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session to share with the membership of the United Nations the main conclusions of the dialogue held on the World Conference with the members of the Forum within the framework of its tenth session.
129. The Permanent Forum recommends to the presidency of the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session the appointment of a facilitator to conduct open-ended consultations with Member States and representatives of indigenous peoples within the framework of the Permanent Forum, as well as with the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, in order to determine the modalities for the meeting, including the participation of indigenous peoples in the Conference.
130. The Permanent Forum recommends that the presidencies of the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth and sixty-seventh sessions convene one-day interactive dialogues with Member States and representatives of indigenous peoples within the framework of the eleventh and twelfth sessions of the Forum.
131. The Permanent Forum calls upon all indigenous peoples worldwide to initiate national and regional preparatory meetings on the World Conference and to present the outcome and conclusion of the meetings as a report to the Forum at its eleventh session, to serve as a valuable input for future discussions by the Forum on the matter.