



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES INDIGENOUS VOICES

BACKGROUNDER

World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Eleventh session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Discussion on Monday, 14 May 2012, 3 – 6 p.m.

In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly will convene a high-level plenary meeting, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

The main objectives of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples are to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples and to pursue the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

As the first such event, the World Conference presents a unique opportunity to draw attention to the situation of indigenous peoples, and the historical and current challenges they face.


Recently, in April 2012, the President of the General Assembly appointed two facilitators – Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba (Mexico) and an indigenous co-facilitator, Mr. John Henriksen (Sami Parliament, Norway) – to conduct consultations with governments and indigenous peoples on the format, organizational issues and possible outcomes of the World Conference.

Along the same lines, the discussion during the eleventh session of the Permanent Forum aims to facilitate inputs from indigenous peoples and indigenous organizations to ensure that they play a central role in all stages of the preparatory process and in defining the outcomes of the World Conference.

The three UN mandates specific to indigenous peoples – the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – have initiated discussions on the World Conference.



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For more information on the eleventh session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, please see: <http://social.un.org/index/IndigenousPeoples.aspx>