



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES INDIGENOUS VOICES

## BACKGROUND

### The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

#### Twelfth session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Discussion on Tuesday, 28 May 2013, from 10 a.m. all day

On 22-23 September 2014, the United Nations General Assembly will convene a high-level plenary meeting, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The main objectives of the World Conference 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, the historical and current challenges they face, as well as their contributions to transformative changes.

The World Conference, which is expected to result in a concise, action-oriented outcome document, will consist of two days of plenary sessions and informal roundtable and panel discussions with representatives of governments and indigenous peoples. A total of 200 indigenous participants from seven regions will be invited.


To prepare for the World Conference, indigenous peoples' organizations in each of the seven regions – Asia, Africa, North America, Central and South America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation and Central Asia and Transcaucasia, the Arctic, and the Pacific – are holding meetings to develop their positions.

Additionally, global groups like the Indigenous Youth Caucus and the Indigenous Women's Caucus are defining their priorities and recommendations for the World Conference.

The results of all these discussions will be presented at a global preparatory conference to be hosted by the Sami Parliament in Alta, Norway, on 10-12 June 2013, where representatives of indigenous peoples worldwide will define their common position toward the World Conference.



United Nations



The three United Nations mechanisms with a mandate on indigenous peoples' rights – the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – met in Guatemala on 20-21 December 2012 to coordinate and prepare for the World Conference.

The discussion during the twelfth session of the Permanent Forum in New York in May aims to find a common understanding on possible themes as well as on the content of the outcome document, which will be derived from the indigenous peoples' preparatory conferences, from Member States, the UN system and other stakeholders.

The preparations for the World Conference coincide with ongoing discussions on the definition of a post-2015 development agenda to succeed the current Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). While there is no specific reference to indigenous peoples in the MDGs, the Permanent Forum, in its fourth and fifth annual sessions, highlighted the relevance of indigenous concepts and practices of development, such as “living well” -- “sumak kawsay” or “sumaq qamaña” in the Kichwa and Aymara languages from the Andes.

To discuss indigenous peoples' perspectives on development, taking into account issues of equality and sustainability, the Permanent Forum will hold **discussions on the post-2015 development agenda** on **Wednesday, 29 May, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Journalists** without United Nations press accreditation, please refer to the website of the Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit for details:

<http://www.un.org/en/media/accreditation> or call +1 212-963-6934 or 212-963-6937

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

Issued by the UN Department of Public Information, May 2013

