



# THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

Media Advisory

PRESS CONFERENCE

## The UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – achievements and challenges over the past 10 years

Thursday, 26 January, 11:00 – 11:45 a.m.

Room S-237, UN Headquarters, New York

**Victoria Tauli-Corpuz**

UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

**Albert Barume**

Chair of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

**Leslie Malezer**

Expert Member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

### BACKGROUND:

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted on 13 September 2007, is marking its tenth anniversary this year. An Expert Group Meeting, taking place at UN Headquarters from 25 to 27 January 2017, is the first in a series of events to take stock of progress and ways forward in strengthening the Declaration's application on the ground and in the lives of indigenous peoples. Organized by the Division for Social Policy and Development of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the meeting will look at how the Declaration can support concrete actions to enhance the rights of indigenous peoples. The press conference will provide the views of the three indigenous-specific UN mandate holders on achievements and challenges in implementing the Declaration at the global, regional and national levels.

While the expert group meeting itself is not open to the press, the following participants are available for interviews:





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## EXPERTS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS (25-27 JAN):

### **Victoria Tauli Corpuz**, Philippines (English)

Ms. Tauli Corpuz has been the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples since 2014. She is an indigenous leader from the Kankana-ey Igorot people of the Cordillera Region in the Philippines. As an indigenous activist, she was actively engaged in the drafting and adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007.

### **Albert Barume**, Democratic Republic of Congo (English)

Dr. Barume is the Chair of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as well as an expert member of the Working Group on indigenous communities of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. He is an expert in international human rights law and equitable development with over 20 years of experience working on law enforcement, compliance with international standards, policy and capacity building issues at local, national, regional and international levels, including with the United Nations and the African Union.

### **Robert Leslie Malezer**, Australia (English)

Mr. Malezer is an incoming Expert Member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2017-2019). From 2011-2015, he was the co-chair of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples. Before that, he amongst others chaired the Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action, was the chief executive officer of Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and has held different positions with the government. In 2014, he was appointed by the President of UN General Assembly to be one of two Indigenous facilitators for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

### **Lars-Anders Baer**, Sámi, Sweden (English)

Mr. Baer is the former president of the Sámi Parliament in Sweden and the former president of the Sámi Parliamentary Council, the highest body representing the Sámi Parliaments of Finland, Norway and Sweden. Growing up in a family involved in traditional reindeer herding, Lars got engaged in the Sámi and international indigenous movement since its early years. He has amongst others chaired the Sámi youth organization Sáminuorra, the Union of the Swedish Sámi, the Nordic Sámi Council and served as vice-president of the World Council of Indigenous peoples.





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TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

## **Max Ooft**, Suriname (English, Dutch)

Mr. Ooft is Policy Officer at the Bureau of the Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname, VIDS (Vereniging van Inheemse Dorpshoofden in Suriname), which brings together the traditional authorities of all indigenous villages in Suriname. He has worked, among others, for various indigenous peoples' organizations at local, national, regional and international levels as well as for UNDP Suriname. He holds a Doctorandus degree in medical sciences, a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Laws degree.

## **Sheryl Lightfoot**, Canada (English)

Dr. Lightfoot is Canada Research Chair in Global Indigenous Rights and Politics. She currently holds a joint appointment as Associate Professor in the First Nations and Indigenous Studies Program and the Political Science Department at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. Dr. Lightfoot is Anishinaabe, an enrolled citizen of the Lake Superior Band of Ojibwe, at the Keweenaw Bay Community in northern Michigan. She is the author of *Global Indigenous Politics: A Subtle Revolution* (Routledge, 2016).

## **Claire Charters**, New Zealand (English)

Dr. Charters is Associate Professor at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. She is from Ngati Whakaue, Tuwharetoa, Nga Puhi and Tainui. Her PhD thesis examined the legitimacy of indigenous peoples' norms under international law, which will also be the focus of her book to be published in 2017. In 2016 she was appointed by the President of the UN General Assembly to advise him on enhancing Indigenous peoples' participation in the United Nations. From 2010-2013 she worked for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, focusing on the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

## **Shankar Limbu**, Nepal (English)

As the Secretary of the Lawyers' Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples. Mr. Limbu has been working to defend, protect and promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Nepal for sixteen years. As a lawyer, he defended critical cases against Indigenous peoples, such as for treasons and organized crimes. Mr. Limbu has further been engaged in the global indigenous peoples' movements, serving at the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples and as a former Executive Member of Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation.

## **Brian Keane**, USA (English)

Mr. Keane is adviser for indigenous peoples' issues at the U.S. Agency for International Development, spearheading efforts to ensure that U.S. development assistance is carried out in a way that recognizes and respects the rights of the world's indigenous peoples and ensures that they are partners in the design, implementation and evaluation of programs and projects





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that affect their lands, lives and livelihoods. Mr. Keane has over 25 years of experience working with indigenous communities in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and the Americas.

**Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim**, Chad (English, French and Arabic)

Ms. Ibrahim is Coordinator of the Association des Femmes Peules Autochtones du Tchad, a community-based organization working for the rights and environmental protection of the indigenous Peule women and people of Chad. She is a strong advocate for action to stop climate change and has co-developed a project in Chad on participation of indigenous herders to ensure peace, livelihoods and biological conservation. Ms. Ibrahim represented civil society at the 22 April 2016 signing ceremony of the Paris climate agreement. She is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee and a Co-Chair of the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change.

**Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine**, Mali (French)

Ms. Aboubakrine is a medical doctor from Tombouctou in Mali. She holds a degree from the University of Tizi-Ouzou (Algeria) with research in ophthalmology, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics and general medicine. She also holds a Masters in Humanitarian Action from the University of Geneva, focusing on interventions in crisis: armed conflict, marginalization/exclusion and natural disasters. Mariam is a member of Tin Hinan, a women's association working for the defence, promotion and development of indigenous peoples in Africa, in particular the Tuareg.

**Anatolii Sleptov**, Russian Federation (Russian)

Mr. Sleptov is Head of the Department of Arctic Law and Law of Asia-Pacific Countries at the Northeastern Federal University, Yakutsk, Russia. He is from a family of Evens, the Arctic nomadic reindeer herders. He is an author of 12 regional laws to protect the rights of indigenous peoples. He founded and headed, in 1992, the family nomad tribal community "Irgichen" to help revive the traditional way of life of the Arctic aboriginal peoples. From 2002 to 2011 he was in charge of state support for socio-economic development of the Arctic region of Yakutia and indigenous peoples.

**Aisa Mukabenova**, Russian Federation (Russian)

Ms. Mukabenova is the First Secretary of the Department for Compatriot Affairs and Human Rights in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. She is a leading expert in inter-ethnic relations and the author of a number of publications on minorities and small indigenous populations.

**To schedule an interview**, please contact: Martina Donlon, DPI: +1 212-963-6816 / donlon@un.org  
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**For more information on Permanent Forum**, please see [www.un.org/indigenous](http://www.un.org/indigenous)

