



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

27 June 2016

Excellency,

I have the honour to remind of the next consultative meeting in the process concerning the ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant UN bodies on issues affecting them, which is scheduled to take place at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, 30 June in Conference Room 1.

In this regard, I am pleased to enclose herewith the following documents:

- Letter from the Advisers, dated 24 June 2016 transmitting a short discussion paper; and
- Short discussion paper as indicated above.

I take this opportunity to encourage the active support and participation of Member States in the proceedings of this meeting.

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

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

Mogens Lykketoft

To all Permanent Representatives  
and Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

24 June 2016

Excellency,

With reference to your letters dated 18 and 25 February, 9 March, 27 April, 16 May and 27 May 2016 with respect to the consultation process associated with Indigenous peoples' participation in the United Nations, we are pleased to forward a discussion paper to accompany the third draft compilation on enabling the participation of Indigenous Peoples to the United Nations on Issues affecting them.

Similarly to the consultations of 18 May, to assist the discussions during the next consultations we have added this short discussion paper to accompany the compilation. In the discussion paper we summarize some views that could be considered during the discussions of 30 June.

We hope that the participants of the consultation will be able to express concrete views on the different aspects regarding participation of Indigenous peoples at the United Nations in order to enable us to refine the compilation. We request that the participants send long substantive inputs also to [ipadvisers@un.org](mailto:ipadvisers@un.org) after the consultative meeting on 30 June to assist the revision of the compilation.

The discussion paper is attached to this letter and can be found in the consultation process website, together with the compilation and further information on the consultation process, including information on booking bilateral meetings with the advisers:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/participation-of-indigenous-peoples-at-the-united-nations.html>

We are looking forward to continue engaging on this important subject with all participants to the consultations and to your continued support.



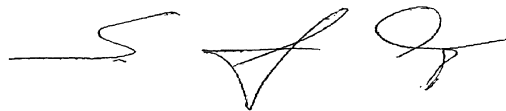
Ambassador Kai Sauer  
Permanent Representative of Finland  
to the United Nations



Ambassador Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee  
Permanent Representative of Ghana  
to the United Nations



Dr. Claire Charters



Prof. James Anaya

## **Addendum to the 3<sup>rd</sup> draft Compilation of 27 May**

### **Discussion paper for the consultation meeting on 30 June**

Based on the third draft compilation (dated 27 May 2016) of views on possible measures necessary to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representative institutions in relevant United Nations meetings on issues affecting them, and of good practices within the UN regarding indigenous peoples' participation, to form the basis for a draft text to be finalized and adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, we ask delegations to consider the following issues:

- A. Keeping in mind the status and territorial integrity of States as set out in the Charter of the United Nations as well as in article 46 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), we observe that most responses have in principle indicated the need for enhanced forms of participation for Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions in UN bodies and processes affecting them, although some other responses have expressed concerns about moving in that direction and proposed rather that the existing means of participation should be strengthened.
- B. As the consultation process is not aiming at altering the exclusive right of Member States of the United Nations to membership in the General Assembly or other UN bodies or the status and territorial integrity of States as set out in the UN Charter as well as confirmed in the UNDRIP, at least the following options are available for consideration:
- 1) Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions - on the basis of certain criteria determining their accreditation under a process to be determined – might be entitled to participation at the UN General Assembly in matters affecting them, including in the dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Third Committee of the General Assembly.
  - 2) Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions might be entitled to participate in UN conferences convened by the General Assembly.
  - 3) The Human Rights Council might be invited to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions, including in the dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples during the Council's annual discussion on Indigenous Peoples (every September session of the HRC).
  - 4) ECOSOC might be invited to enhance participation of Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions.
  - 5) UN programmes, funds and specialized agencies might be invited to enhance participation of Indigenous Peoples within their respective bodies.
  - 6) The specific forms of participation would include the right to speak and other rights endowed to observers in the General Assembly, but not for instance the right to reply,

right to vote or right to take initiatives. The modalities for participation should not fall below that of ECOSOC-accredited NGO's.

- 7) There needs to be established an accreditation procedure; such a procedure could be an international accreditation council composed of members appointed by both Indigenous Peoples and States.
- 8) The indigenous representative institutions that would be entitled to enhanced participation would be confined to indigenous governance institutions, including governing councils, parliaments and traditional authorities?

The enhanced participatory rights of Indigenous representatives institutions would not impair or affect the established right of other entities' such as NGO's with ECOSOC consultative status to participate in UN meetings or those indigenous peoples, groups and individuals who participate in EMRIP and PFI meetings.