



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11 September 2017

Excellency,

I have the honor to forward herewith a letter dated 11 September 2017 from the Advisors of the consultation process concerning the ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them. The letter includes an informal summary of the discussions of the consultation process to assist you in your future consideration of this matter.

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

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

Peter Thomson

To All Permanent Representatives  
and Permanent Observers of the United Nations  
New York

New York 11 September 2017

Excellency,

With the reference to your letters dated 28 September, 18 October and 2 and 23 December 2016 and 23 January, 16 February, 11 and 21 April, 19 May, 6 and 16 June, and 10 and 15 August 2017 concerning the consultation process associated with Indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions participation in the United Nations, we hereby send you an informal summary of the consultation process.

We wish to convey our deepest appreciation to the delegates and Indigenous peoples for their active participation in and constructive approach to the discussions throughout this process, as well as to you, Excellency, for your support to the process and for the trust in appointing us as advisors.

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



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

## **Summary of the consultation process on possible measures to enable the participation of Indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions at relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them**

The advisors would like to herewith provide a comprehensive list of informal consultations, briefings, compilations and draft text during the UN General Assembly 70<sup>th</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> session consultation process on possible measures to enable the participation of Indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions at relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them.

All consultations preceding the intergovernmental negotiations that started in May 2017 were open to both Member States and Indigenous peoples. The Advisors also organized meetings with Indigenous Peoples and Member States on the first draft resolution during the Sixteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (on 26 April and 3 May 2017). While the intergovernmental process was ongoing they had one formal opportunity to brief both Member States and Indigenous peoples during the tenth session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva on 12 July 2017 (briefing by Dr. Charters available in full on UN Web TV <http://webtv.un.org/search/item-7-indigenous-peoples%E2%80%99-participation-5th-meeting-10th-session-expert-mechanism-on-rights-of-indigenous-peoples/5502629199001/?term=10th%20Session%20Expert%20Mechanism%20on%20Rights%20of%20Indigenous%20Peoples&sort=date&page=2> ).

The letters of the President of the General Assembly, compilations and drafts as well as information on the informal consultations, including UN Web TV links, are available also on the UN website <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/participation-of-indigenous-peoples-at-the-united-nations.html>. The compilations and the first draft resolution proposed by the Advisors were translated unofficially from English to French, Russian and Spanish. The compilation dated 8 July 2016 was issued as an official UN document and is available in all UN official languages (A/70/990). The different versions of the compilations and the draft texts presented by the Advisors build on each other and are all available on the aforementioned website.

The advisors hope this information will be useful for future reference when informal hearings and consultations on Indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions participation are held in accordance with the resolution *Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them* (A/71/L.82) adopted by the General Assembly on 8 September 2017. The Advisors believe that the second draft text (known as REV 2) presented by the Advisors and circulated by the President of the General Assembly on 6 June 2016 could serve as useful basis for future deliberations on this topic.

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## **Compiled information of the consultation process on possible measures to enable the participation of Indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions at relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them**

### **UN General Assembly 70<sup>th</sup> session (in chronological order)**

- Letter by the President of the General Assembly appointing the four Advisers who will assist him in conducting consultations on the participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations (18 February 2016)
- Letter by the President of the General Assembly convening a briefing on the issue of participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations (25 February 2016)
- Letter by the President of the General Assembly addressed to indigenous peoples on the launching of a process of the General Assembly to consider how to enable the participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations (26 February 2016)
- A first informal launch briefing on the process took place on 7 March 2016
- An electronic consultation was conducted from 8 March to 8 April 2016

- Letter by the President of the General Assembly enclosing the communication from the Advisers on the way forward on the consultations on the participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations (9 March 2016)
- Letter by the President of the General Assembly enclosing a letter from the Advisers of the consultation process concerning the ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant UN bodies on issues affecting them (27 April 2016). The letter included a first draft of the compilation of views on possible measures necessary to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in relevant United Nations meetings on issues affecting them, and of good practices within the United Nations 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.
- Consultations on 11 May 2016
- Briefing by the advisors represented by Dr. Charters at the Fifteenth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 13 May 2016
- Letter by the President of the General Assembly enclosing a letter from the Advisers of the consultation process containing the second compilation of the views expressed by Member States and Indigenous Peoples (16 May 2016)
- Consultations on 18 May 2016
- Letter by the President of the General Assembly enclosing a letter from the Advisers of the consultation process containing the third compilation of the views expressed by Member States and Indigenous Peoples (27 May 2016)
- Consultations on 30 May 2016
- Letter by the President of the General Assembly to transmit a short discussion paper from the Advisers of the consultation process for the participation of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations (27 June 2016)
- Letter by the President of the General Assembly enclosing a letter from the Advisers of the consultation process containing the final compilation of the views expressed by Member States and Indigenous Peoples (8 July 2016). The compilation was issued as UN General Assembly document A/70/990. The compilation included as an annex potential elements for discussion during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.
- Briefing on the consultation process and the final compilation by the Advisors to Member States and Indigenous Peoples at the Ninth Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva on 11 July 2016.

#### **UN General Assembly 71<sup>st</sup> session (in chronological order)**

- Letter by the President of the General Assembly re-appointing the four Advisers and convening a meeting on the issue of participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations (28 September 2016)
- Informal launch briefing on 3 October 2016
- Letter by the President of the General Assembly enclosing the communication from the Advisers on the roadmap and way forward on the consultations for the participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations (18 October 2016)
- Letter by the President of the General Assembly convening a meeting on the issue of participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations (2 December 2016)
- Consultations on 14 and 15 December 2016
- Letter from the Advisers to the PGA on the consultation process, transmitting the updated version of the elements paper to serve as a basis for discussion during the consultation taking place from 30 January to 1 February 2017 (23 December 2016)
- Letter from the PGA to Indigenous peoples on the schedules of the consultation process in January and February (23 January 2017)
- Consultations from 30 January to 1 February 2017
- Letter to President of the General Assembly from Advisers containing an updated version of the elements paper (15 February 2017)

- Letter from the President of the General Assembly to Indigenous peoples informing about the consultations in February, including the updated elements paper (16 February 2017)
- Consultations on 27 and 28 February 2017
- Letter by the President of the General Assembly conveying a letter from the Advisers to the PGA on the consultations process concerning the ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples representatives (11 April 2017)
- Letter from the President of the General Assembly to indigenous peoples containing the draft text for upcoming negotiations for the finalization and adoption of the outcome by the Assembly during its seventy-first session (24 April 2017)
- Consultations on the first draft text on 26 April and 3 May 2017
- Briefing by the advisors represented by Ambassador Sauer at the Sixteenth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 28 April 2017
- Intergovernmental negotiations on 5 May and 8 May 2017
- Letter from the President of the General Assembly conveying the Advisers letter to the President of the General Assembly containing the first revised draft text for upcoming negotiations scheduled for 25 and 26 May, 2017 (19 May 2017)
- Intergovernmental negotiations on 25 May and 26 May 2017
- Letter from the President of the General Assembly containing the second revised draft text for upcoming negotiations on the consultations process concerning the ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples representatives (6 June 2017)
- Intergovernmental negotiations on 9 June 2017
- Letter by President of the General Assembly including an updated second revised text by the Advisors for the negotiations scheduled for 21-23 June and 27-28 June 2017 (16 June 2017)
- Intergovernmental negotiations from 21 to 23 June 2017 and 27-28 June 2017
- Briefing to Member States and Indigenous Peoples on the intergovernmental negotiations by the Advisors represented by Dr. Charters at the Tenth Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva on 12 July 2017. The briefing by Dr. Charters is available in full on UN Web TV <http://webtv.un.org/search/item-7-indigenous-peoples%E2%80%99-participation-5th-meeting-10th-session-expert-mechanism-on-rights-of-indigenous-peoples/5502629199001/?term=10th%20Session%20Expert%20Mechanism%20on%20Rights%20of%20Indigenous%20Peoples&sort=date&page=2>.
- Letter from the President of the General Assembly containing the Draft Resolution on Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them (10 August 2017)
- Letter from the President of the General Assembly containing the Final Resolution on Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them (15 August 2017)
- Adoption of the Resolution on Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them on 8 September