



THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION

General Assembly Hall, United Nations Headquarters

Monday, 22 April 2019

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

PROGRAMME

1. Performance by **Sjisäwishék** '*Keeping the fire strong*', indigenous girls of the Onondaga Nation, Haudenosaunee Confederacy
2. Declaration of the opening of the session by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, **Mr. Elliott Harris**
3. Ceremonial welcome by the traditional Chief of the Onondaga Nation, **Tadodaho Sid Hill**
4. Election of the Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
5. Statement by the President of the 73th session of the General Assembly, **H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés**
6. Statement by the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, **H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale** (Morocco)
7. Election of the Bureau of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
8. Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work
9. Statement by the Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
10. Message of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, **Mr. Liu Zhenmin** delivered by **Mr. Elliott Harris**, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist
11. Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, **Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer**

