



Remarks

by

H.E. Mr. Crispin Gregoire

Special Adviser

on behalf of

H.E. Mr. John W. Ashe

President of the 68th Session of the United Nations

General Assembly

13th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Agenda item 6: World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

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Chairman of the Permanent Forum,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Elders,
Leaders of Tribal Governments,
Members of the Permanent Forum,
Representatives of Indigenous Organizations, and Civil Society Organizations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the President of the General Assembly, I am indeed honoured to address this session of the Thirteenth Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues with its specific focus on the World Conference on Indigenous People (WCIP) to be held in September at the commencement of the 69th Session of the General Assembly.

Excellencies,

As you are aware, it was General Assembly Resolution, A/RES/65/198, adopted on 21 December 2010, which decided that, a High-level Plenary Meeting, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, would be held 22 to 23 September, 2014. Paragraph 8 of that resolution underscored that the main objective of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples is the sharing of perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and pursuance of the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples.

Following upon that resolution, the General Assembly adopted in 2012 the Modalities Resolution, A/RES/66/296, specifying the organizational arrangements of the High-level Plenary Meeting. This resolution conferred on the 68th President of the General Assembly the responsibility of organizing the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and most importantly, the preparation of a concise and action-oriented Outcome Document to be adopted by the World Conference.

The President has been attentive to provisions of the Modalities Resolution and understands the importance of consensus by both Member States and Indigenous Peoples as regards the content of the Outcome Document, the themes of the roundtable and panel discussions, and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in the process.

The President has presented various proposals for the development of this Outcome Document. Unfortunately, none have enjoyed the agreement of Member States and Indigenous Peoples. The President will make every possible effort towards a framework that will be agreeable to Member States and Indigenous Peoples.

In the quest to move the process forward, I have the honour to present to you this morning a roadmap which the President believes is the best way forward. This roadmap was made available this morning to Member States and to representatives of Indigenous Peoples. Its elements are as follows:

- The President of the General Assembly will convene, and personally preside over, an open and inclusive consultation with Member States and with representatives of the Indigenous peoples. At the consultation, the President of the General Assembly will be assisted by the two Ambassadorial Advisers, the Permanent Representatives of Costa Rica and Slovenia, and the two indigenous Advisers, Mr. Les Malezer and Dr. Mirna Cunningham, nominated by the Indigenous Peoples.
- During the consultation, the President will invite Member States to share with him their ideas as to what should be the content of the Outcome Document. He will invite the Indigenous Peoples to do the same.
- Following the consultation, the President will prepare a zero draft of an Outcome Document. The aforementioned Advisers will assist him with this effort. The resulting draft document will be shared with Member States as well as with the Indigenous Peoples for their consideration.

- A subsequent follow-up consultation will be held to enable Member States and representatives of the Indigenous Peoples to share their views on the zero draft. On the basis of these views, and with the assistance of the Advisers, a revised draft document will be prepared serving as a fair reflection of the views, and will be the basis for moving forward with the negotiations.

As regards the time frame for the consultations, the President intends to hold the first consultation on or before 29 May 2014.

The Interactive Hearing called for in Resolution, A/RES/66/296, will be convened in June, the specific date to be communicated to Member States and Indigenous Peoples by the end of this week.

I assure you, ladies and gentlemen, that the President of the General Assembly will be steadfast and unwavering in his determination to produce a framework for the consultations which he is required to undertake; one that will ensure a fair and inclusive process and that will enjoy the full embrace of Member States and the Indigenous Peoples.

I thank you.
