

New York 15 February 2017

Excellency,

With the reference to your letters dated 28 September, 18 October and 2 and 23 December 2016 and 23 January 2017 with respect to the consultation process associated with Indigenous peoples' participation in the United Nations, we are pleased to send you an updated version of the elements paper to serve as a basis for discussion during the forthcoming consultations on 27 to 28 February 2017.

The final compilation and addendum (A/70/990) is available in all official UN languages at: www.undocs.org/a/70/990. The elements paper for discussion during the consultations is attached to this letter. Updated information on the consultation process, including the elements paper, is also available at the consultation process website:

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

We wish to note that we have attempted to include a variety of proposals received during this consultation process in the elements paper, while also narrowing down possible options within the mandate of the General Assembly. We have taken into account that there is considerable support for some of the proposals presented in the elements paper, yet have recognized that the support is not uniform.

Also, we are happy to inform you that we are pleased with how the consultations proceeded during the previous session on 30 January to 1 February and wish to convey our appreciation to the participants of the consultations for their constructive approach to the discussions. It is our view that a successful outcome can only be achieved in partnership together with Member States and Indigenous Peoples. It is therefore important that the process remains inclusive and that the views of the Indigenous peoples are heard before the decision is made by the General Assembly. We encourage Member States to continue consulting with Indigenous Peoples in their regions.

After the consultations of 27 and 28 February it is our aim to circulate a draft text, so it is important to hear concise views on the elements during the consultations. Participants are requested to keep their comments brief and addressing directly the issue at hand.

The schedule of the forthcoming consultations on 27 to 28 February 2017 is as detailed below:

Monday 27 February

10 AM - 1 PM Bilaterals with Member States and Indigenous peoples

3 PM - 6 PM Bilaterals with Member States and Indigenous peoples

Tuesday 28 February

- 10 AM - 11:30 AM Consultations: segment 1: Decision, current practices, venues of participation
- 11:30 AM - 1 PM Consultations: segment 2: Participation modalities
- 3 PM - 4:30 PM Consultations: segment 3: Selection mechanism
- 4:30 PM - 6 PM Consultations: segment 4: Selection criteria

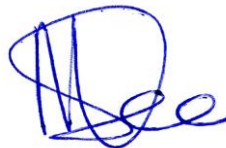
The actual consultations on 28 February will take place in Conference Room 2 at United Nations headquarters. Delegations wishing to schedule a bilateral meeting with the advisors on 27 February are requested to contact Helena.vuokko@formin.fi to schedule a time and place for a meeting.

We are looking forward to continual engagement on this important subject with all stakeholders and to your continued support.

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