



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9 March, 2016

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to enclose herewith a letter, dated 8 March, 2016, 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, namely, the two Advisers from Member States – H.E. Mr. Kai Sauer, Permanent Representative of Finland and H.E. Mrs. Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, Permanent Representative of Ghana, as well as the two Advisers from Indigenous Peoples – Dr. Claire Winfield Ngamihi Charters from the Pacific region and Dr. James Anaya from the North America region. The letter provides important information on the way forward on the consultations.

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

All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

New York 8 March 2016

Excellency,

With the reference to your letters dated 18 and 25 February, allow us to express our deep appreciation in your appointment of us as Advisers to 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. We are grateful for your support in the process, including the convening of the informal launch briefing on 7 March 2016, at United Nations in New York.

The launch briefing provided a valuable opportunity for us to hear detailed views from Members States and Indigenous Peoples on our proposed roadmap and approach to the consultation process. The Indicative roadmap is attached to this letter.

The process will now continue with the electronic consultation that takes place from 8 March until 8 April 2016. Member States and Indigenous Peoples are welcome to take part in the electronic consultation and invited to send their proposals to ipadvisers@un.org. The proposals could address, inter alia, the following elements:

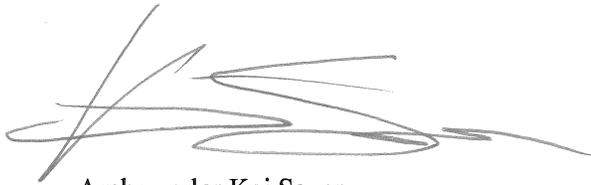
- (a) Procedures and modalities that will make the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives meaningful and effective;
- (b) Criteria for determining the eligibility of indigenous peoples' representatives for accreditation as such;
- (c) Nature and membership of a body to determine the eligibility of indigenous peoples' representatives for accreditation;
- (d) Details of the process, including the information required to be submitted to obtain accreditation as an indigenous peoples' representative.

There are useful background materials to inform this electronic consultation. In March-April 2015 the Secretariat received inputs from Indigenous Peoples and Member States for the Report of the Secretary General ([A/70/84-E/2015/76](#)) on the follow-up to the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. These inputs included specific proposals on the participation of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations and the secretariat has prepared an overview of the inputs received. This overview is available on the webpage below that also contains other relevant information and background documentation for the electronic consultation: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/participation-of-indigenous-peoples-at-the-united-nations.html>

On the basis of this electronic consultation and previous General Assembly resolutions and UN reports and studies on the topic, we will prepare a first draft compilation for consultations with Members States and representatives of Indigenous Peoples to be conducted during the 15th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, to be held in New York from 9 to 20 May 2016.

We are looking forward to continue engaging on this important subject with all participants to the consultations 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

Attachment:

Indicative roadmap of the consultation process on enabling the participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations on issues affecting them

8 th March to 8 th April:	Electronic consultation
27 th April:	First draft of the compilation to be circulated
11 th May:	First consultation meeting during the 15 th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York
16 th May:	Second draft of the compilation circulated
18 th May:	Second consultation meeting during the 15 th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York
27 th May:	Third draft of the compilation circulated
28 th June:	Third consultation meeting in New York
11 th July:	The final compilation circulated and a presentation during the 8 th session of the Expert Mechanism on Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva