



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10 August 2017

Excellency,

I have the honor to forward herewith a letter dated 10 August 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 contains the text of a draft resolution entitled "Enhancing the Participation of Indigenous Peoples' Representative and Institutions in Meetings of Relevant United Nations Bodies on Issues Affecting Them". The draft resolution is now under silence procedure until 06:00pm EST, Monday, 14 August 2017.

I wish to thank all Member States for their flexibility and spirit of collaboration and for the steadfast support extended to the Advisors throughout the 71st Session of the General Assembly.

I also wish to express my deep gratitude to the two Advisors 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 to the two Advisers from indigenous peoples – Dr. Claire Winfield Ngamihi Charters from the Pacific region and Dr. James Anaya from the North America region, for their tireless efforts and excellent work during both the consultation phase and the intergovernmental negotiations.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Thomson".

Peter Thomson

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

New York 10 August 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 and 6 and 16 June 2017 concerning the consultation process associated with Indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions participation in the United Nations, we hereby send you a draft resolution agreed in intergovernmental negotiations on enhancing the participation of Indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them.

Since February 2016 we have engaged in extensive consultations with Member States and Indigenous peoples on the possible measures necessary, including procedural and institutional steps and selection criteria, to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them with a view to finalize a text to be adopted by the General Assembly during its 71st session. This work has been guided by the need to achieve consensus and the respect for the views and aspirations of both Indigenous peoples and Member States. Both Indigenous peoples and Member States have actively and constructively participated in the process.

The enclosed draft resolution takes into consideration the various proposals and opinions expressed during the intergovernmental negotiations that took place from May to July 2017. It is our understanding that this final draft includes those elements of the discussions on achieving a common understanding on enhancing Indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions participation in the United Nations and a solid basis for future deliberations, in partnership with Indigenous peoples, on the issue.

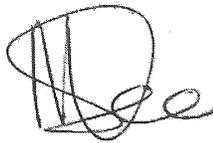
The final compilation and addendum (A/70/990) is available in all official UN languages at: www.undocs.org/a/70/990. The compromise resolution agreed by the Member States in the intergovernmental negotiations is attached to this letter for circulation to all Member States for silence procedure.

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.

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



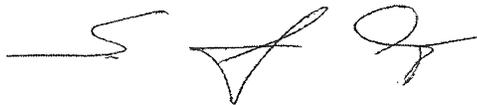
Ambassador Kai Sauer
Permanent Representative of Finland
to the United Nations



Ambassador Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee
Permanent Representative of Ghana
to the United Nations



Dr. Claire Charters



Prof. James Anaya

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON ENHANCING THE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' REPRESENTATIVES AND INSTITUTIONS IN MEETINGS OF RELEVANT UNITED NATIONS BODIES ON ISSUES AFFECTING THEM

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the solemn commitment to respect, promote and advance and in no way diminish the rights of Indigenous Peoples and to uphold the principles of the Declaration,

Reaffirming the Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and recalling its decision by which member states committed to consider ways to enable the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them,

Recalling its resolution 70/232 of 23 December 2015 in which it requested the President of the General Assembly to conduct consultations with Member States, Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions from all regions of the world, and existing relevant mechanisms of the United Nations, on the possible measures necessary to enable the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, and also requested the President to prepare a compilation of the views presented during the consultations, including good practices within the United Nations regarding Indigenous Peoples' participation, which will form the basis for a draft text to be finalized and adopted by the General Assembly during its seventy-first session,

Further recalling other relevant General Assembly and Human Rights Council¹ resolutions,

Recognizing the need to find ways and means of promoting the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions within the United Nations system on issues affecting them and that they are not always organized as non-governmental organizations,

Emphasizing that the modalities of participation by Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples shall continue undiminished,

1 Takes note with appreciation 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' participation² transmitted by the President of the General Assembly as a basis for a draft text to be finalized and adopted by the General Assembly during its seventy-first session;

¹ In particular A/HRC/RES/18/8 and A/HRC/RES/21/24

² A/70/990

2 Welcomes the constructive and open informal dialogue between Member States and Indigenous Peoples on the possible measures necessary to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them during its seventieth and seventy-first sessions;

3 Encourages the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples in promoting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to continue addressing enhanced participation of Indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions at the United Nations on issues affecting them;

4 Encourages further efforts to facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them in accordance with their respective existing rules of procedure, inter alia, through the inclusion of Indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in modalities for relevant conferences, summits and other meetings convened by the United Nations on issues affecting them, in accordance with the relevant decisions established by the appropriate body or organisation for those meetings;

5 Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly by the end of its seventy-fourth session on achievements, analysis and concrete recommendations on the possible further measures necessary to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, building on the report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of promoting participation at the United Nations of indigenous peoples' representatives on the issues affecting them³, the report on the progress made in the implementation of the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples⁴ and 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' participation⁵ as well as the informal discussions undertaken during the seventy-first session as reflected in the correspondence of the President of the General Assembly:

6 Requests the Secretary-General, including with the support of Member States, to seek input from Indigenous Peoples from all regions of the world in preparation for the report and in this regard, also encourages the Secretary-General to hold regional consultations, including through the regional commissions, as appropriate, with the support of the Member States, relevant UN agencies and entities, before the nineteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and request the Secretary General to incorporate these inputs into the report mentioned in the preceding paragraph;

7 Decides to continue consideration of possible further measures necessary to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in relevant United Nations meetings on issues affecting them at its seventy-fifth session, taking into account achievements in other bodies and organisations throughout the United Nations system, and with preceding consultations with

³ A/HRC/21/24

⁴ A/70/84-E/2015/76

⁵ A/70/990

Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions from all regions of the world as an input to the intergovernmental process;

8 *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, as part of the preparatory process for the consideration during the seventy-fifth session, to organize and preside over informal interactive hearings and to prepare a summary of each hearing, during the seventy-second, the seventy-third and the seventy-fourth sessions of the General Assembly, on the sidelines of the Permanent Forum on indigenous Issues, with Indigenous Peoples, ensuring, to the extent possible, balanced regional representation;

9 *Decides* to expand the mandate of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples so that it can assist representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations and institutions to participate in the hearings organized by the President of the General Assembly as requested by this resolution, ensuring, to the extent possible, balanced regional representation;

10 *Urges* Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples.