

March 29, 2022

H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid
President of the UN General Assembly
New York

CC: Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch/Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:
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Mr. Luis Elizondo Belden, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations:
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Your Excellency,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Temporary Committee for the Indigenous Coordinating Body for Enhanced Participation in the United Nations, which is an outcome of the second “Dialogue Meeting on Enhanced Indigenous Peoples’ Participation at the UN” held on 27-30 January 2020 in Quito, Ecuador. The Committee includes Indigenous Peoples representatives from the seven indigenous socio-cultural regions, tasked to facilitate cooperation amongst Indigenous Peoples with regard to the enhanced participation process in the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.

We recognize and welcome the efforts of the General Assembly to continue the process based on decisions made in resolution 71/321 entitled “Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples’ representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them“, despite the current extraordinary circumstances.

Recalling our letters to your office dated June 22, 2020; April 7, 2021 and July 5, 2021. Considering the unique circumstances of Indigenous Peoples, and the challenges of those currently situated in the indigenous *Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia* socio-cultural region, we still believe that hybrid meetings would not be feasible for the vast majority of Indigenous Peoples’ representative institutions.

Therefore, we recommend that the informal interactive hearing be further postponed until in-person meetings can take place allowing the broadest and most inclusive participation possible of Indigenous Peoples and Member States.

In the interim, and as a matter of priority, we would recommend Your Excellency to appoint four advisers to conduct the consultations and informal processes and discussion so that all work can be carried forward towards a roadmap for the negotiation process. In this regard, we remain faithful to our nomination of Dr. Claire Charters, and Mr. Johnson Cerda as indigenous advisers, as enunciated in our letter of July 5, 2021.

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

Tuomas Aslak Juuso

Co-chair of the Quito Dialogue Meeting on behalf of the Temporary Committee