



FAWCO UN Report

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Date: 09 December 2013, 2-3pm

Location: Palais des Nations, Room V

Program: Joint NGO briefing Series – 12th Session, Indigenous Peoples

Format: Moderator//Panel

Organization: UN NGLS

Speakers: Alessandra Vellucci, Chief, Press and External Relations, UN Information Services, Geneva; Antti Korkeakivi, Chief and Samia Slimane, Human Rights Officer, Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, OHCHR

Preface: Indigenous peoples often face discrimination which in turn denies them their guaranteed rights and opportunities. FAWCO supports efforts to end discrimination and denial of human rights.

On December 21, 2010, the UN General adopted an Assembly Resolution establishing the high-level plenary meeting of the UN General Assembly to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (HLP/WCIP). The meeting today, December 9, 2013, was held to report planning efforts and announce that the first World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, A High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly will be held in New York City, NY on September 22-23, 2014.

Mr. Antti Korkeakivi stressed the importance of actively involving Indigenous peoples in conference planning efforts. He reported that Indigenous peoples have developed a number of initiatives aimed at ensuring they are able to participate in the global conference as well as the preparatory and post Conference processes. To this end, Indigenous peoples worldwide have been meeting by region and caucus to identify issues of concern and discuss strategies important in that region to realizing indigenous rights, including those outlined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

From these regional meetings, ideas have been collected into regional and caucus declarations. Each declaration summarizes, from the perspective of the Indigenous people, issues, strategies and recommendations of that region or caucus. The declarations will be reviewed in Alta, Norway at the Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference in June 2014. It is expected that over 800 Indigenous peoples, observers, and members of the press and media will attend.

The *Indigenous Global Coordinating Group* (GCG): In January 2012 an open-ended Indigenous Peoples' Brainstorming Meeting on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples 2014 was held. That meeting adopted a resolution establishing the formation of an Indigenous Global Coordinating Group (GCG). The GCG has met regularly since its establishment. Each region or caucus has been represented by at least one member. The GCG has created Terms of Reference for itself as well as for the Indigenous co-facilitator. It has also formed a fundraising committee and a communications group. All members serve in their volunteer capacity.

The GCG is primarily responsible for lobbying for the full and effective participation of Indigenous peoples in the preparatory processes leading up to, during and after the World Conference as well as raising funds to ensure that the Indigenous preparatory process is realized.

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