Joint NGO Briefing Series – 12th Session

Indigenous Peoples: preparations for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples
22 to 23 September 2014

Meeting Note from Monday 9 December 2013, 2 to 3.15 p.m.
Room V, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Welcome

Attendees were welcomed by Alessandra Vellucci, Chief, Press and External Relations at the United Nations Information Service in Geneva.

Presentation

Antti Korkeakivi, Chief, and Samia Slimane, Human Rights Officer, for the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) gave a presentation about the upcoming World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (to be held in New York, 22 to 23 September 2014) and their preparations for it.

Background: Mr. Korkeakivi recalled that the in Resolution A/RES/65/198 of 21 December 2010, the UN General Assembly decided to organize “a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly in 2014, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples”.

The objective was to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples and to pursue the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Modalities:

According to Resolution A/RES/66/296 the conference was to be co-facilitated by an indigenous representative and a government representative.

The dates would be the 22 September and the afternoon of 23 September 2014, to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The format of the World Conference would be:

- Two plenary meetings - opening and closing sessions;
- Three interactive round-table discussions;
- One interactive panel discussion.
- Resulting in a concise and action oriented Outcome Document.

Indigenous Preparatory Process:

In 2012 an Indigenous Global Coordinating Group (GCG) was established.

Between 2012 and 2013 indigenous-led regional preparatory meetings have been held in the seven socio-cultural regions, in addition to the Indigenous Women and Youth Caucuses.
2013: The Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference was held in Alta, Norway in June, and proposed four themes:

1) Indigenous Peoples’ lands, territories, resources, oceans and waters;
2) Implementation of the rights of Indigenous Peoples;
3) United Nations action for support for the implementation of rights of Indigenous Peoples;
4) Indigenous peoples’ priorities for development with free, prior and informed consent.

UN contributions to the process:

- July 2012-13: Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) held sessions to discuss WCIP.
- February 2014: Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund to discuss how to support indigenous participation.

Forthcoming steps:

- Possible appointment of co-facilitators,
- Further pre meetings (e.g. Mexico in April),
- Confirm the details of accreditation procedure,
- Organize the interactive hearing (back to back with PFII),
- Identify specific themes for the round-table and panel discussions,
- Identify the chairs (indigenous and government) of the panel discussions and 3 indigenous speakers for the opening ceremony, to speak with the UN Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Chair of PFII,
- Negotiate the content of the Outcome document,

And finally, concluded Mr. Korkeakivi, to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples!

Concluding Remarks

Ricardo Espinosa, Chief, United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service, thanked participants. He said that this was his last briefing, as he was due to retire at the end of the year.

Participants thanked Mr. Espinosa for his dedicated service towards non-governmental organizations and wished him a very happy retirement.