

Issues: UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

On September 13, 2007, the UN General Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This decision came after 25 years of United Nations meetings beginning with those convened by the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations in 1982. The Declaration is the center piece of debate between states' governments and between states' governments and indigenous nations. More than 5000 nations are the subject of this Declaration and its implementation is reason for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The World Conference will not actually implement the Declaration. It will effectively begin the debate in earnest. Just as it took scores of meetings, negotiations and dialogue to implement provisions of the Declaration on Human Rights, it will take months and years to implement provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Considering that there are so many nations and more than 200 states, negotiations will be complicated, frustrating and sometimes successful as the years play out. Read the Declaration here and you will see why. Even though it does not contain much of the language preferred by the hundreds of indigenous peoples who traveled to Geneva every year from 1982 through 1992 to promote language for this declaration, it does contain language that has the potential for starting the dialogue and negotiations between indigenous nations and states' governments.

In the Indigenous Peoples' Forum, we offer a sample of the type of dialogue that has already begun.

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Taholah, Quinault Indian Nation, June 12, 2013

61/295. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly [without reference to a Main Committee (A/61/L.67 and Add.1)]

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the recommendation of the Human Rights Council contained in its resolution 1/2 of 29 June 2006,¹ by which the Council adopted the text of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

Recalling its resolution 61/178 of 20 December 2006, by which it decided to defer consideration of and action on the Declaration to allow time for further consultations thereon, and also decided to conclude its consideration before the end of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly,

Adopts the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as contained in the annex to the present resolution. 107th plenary meeting 13 September 2007

Annex

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The General Assembly, Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and good faith in the fulfilment of the obligations assumed by States in accordance with the Charter,

Affirming that indigenous peoples are equal to all other peoples, while recognizing

the right of all peoples to be different, to consider themselves different, and to be respected as such,

Affirming also that all peoples contribute to the diversity and richness of civilizations and cultures, which constitute the common heritage of humankind,

Affirming further that all doctrines, policies and practices based on or advocating superiority of peoples or individuals on the basis of national origin or racial, religious, ethnic or cultural differences are racist, scientifically false, legally invalid, morally condemnable and socially unjust,

Reaffirming that indigenous peoples, in the exercise of their rights, should be free from discrimination of any kind,

Concerned that indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of, inter alia, their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources, thus preventing them from exercising, in particular, their right to development in accordance with their own needs and interests,

Recognizing the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of indigenous peoples which derive from their political, economic and social structures and from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories and philosophies, especially their rights to their lands, territories and resources,

Recognizing also the urgent need to respect and promote the rights of indigenous

1. See Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/61/53), part one, chap. II, sect. A.

peoples affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements with States,

Welcoming the fact that indigenous peoples are organizing themselves for political, economic, social and cultural enhancement and in order to bring to an end all forms of discrimination and oppression wherever they occur,

Convinced that control by indigenous peoples over developments affecting them and their lands, territories and resources will enable them to maintain and strengthen their institutions, cultures and traditions, and to promote their development in accordance with their aspirations and needs,

Recognizing that respect for indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment,

Emphasizing the contribution of the demilitarization of the lands and territories of indigenous peoples to peace, economic and social progress and development, understanding and friendly relations among nations and peoples of the world,

Recognizing in particular the right of indigenous families and communities to retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education and well-being of their children, consistent with the rights of the child,

Considering that the rights affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous peoples are, in some situations, matters of international concern, interest, responsibility

and character,

Considering also that treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, and the relationship they represent, are the basis for a strengthened partnership between indigenous peoples and States,

Acknowledging that the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights² and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,² as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,³ affirm the fundamental importance of the right to self-determination of all peoples, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development,

Bearing in mind that nothing in this Declaration may be used to deny any peoples their right to self-determination, exercised in conformity with international law,

Convinced that the recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples in this Declaration will enhance harmonious and cooperative relations between the State and indigenous peoples, based on principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, non-discrimination and good faith,

Encouraging States to comply with and effectively implement all their obligations as they apply to indigenous peoples under international instruments, in particular those related to human rights, in consultation and cooperation with the peoples concerned,

Emphasizing that the United Nations has an important and continuing role to play in

2. See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

3. A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples,

Believing that this Declaration is a further important step forward for the recognition, promotion and protection of the rights and freedoms of indigenous peoples and in the development of relevant activities of the United Nations system in this field,

Recognizing and reaffirming that indigenous individuals are entitled without discrimination to all human rights recognized in international law, and that indigenous peoples possess collective rights which are indispensable for their existence, well-being and integral development as peoples,

Recognizing that the situation of indigenous peoples varies from region to region and from country to country and that the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical and cultural backgrounds should be taken into consideration,

Solemnly proclaims the following United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a standard of achievement to be pursued in a spirit of partnership and mutual respect:

Article 1

Indigenous peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁴ and international human rights law.

Article 2

Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.

Article 3

Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Article 4

Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

Article 5

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

Article 6

Every indigenous individual has the right to a nationality.

Article 7

1. Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.

4. Resolution 217 A (III).

2. Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.

Article 8

1. Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.
2. States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:
 - (a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;
 - (b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;
 - (c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights;
 - (d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration;
 - (e) Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them.

Article 9

Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right to belong to an indigenous community or nation, in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or nation concerned. No discrimination of any kind may

arise from the exercise of such a right.

Article 10

Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return.

Article 11

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.

2. States shall provide redress through effective mechanisms, which may include restitution, developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples, with respect to their cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property taken without their free, prior and informed consent or in violation of their laws, traditions and customs.

Article 12

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practise, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.

2. States shall seek to enable the access and/or repatriation of ceremonial objects and hu-

man remains in their possession through fair, transparent and effective mechanisms developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned.

Article 13

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.

2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that this right is protected and also to ensure that indigenous peoples can understand and be understood in political, legal and administrative proceedings, where necessary through the provision of interpretation or by other appropriate means.

Article 14

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.

2. Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.

3. States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.

Article 15

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.

2. States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.

Article 16

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination.

2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that State-owned media duly reflect indigenous cultural diversity. States, without prejudice to ensuring full freedom of expression, should encourage privately owned media to adequately reflect indigenous cultural diversity.

Article 17

1. Indigenous individuals and peoples have the right to enjoy fully all rights established under applicable international and domestic labour law.

2. States shall in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples take specific measures to protect indigenous children from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, men-

tal, spiritual, moral or social development, taking into account their special vulnerability and the importance of education for their empowerment.

3. Indigenous individuals have the right not to be subjected to any discriminatory conditions of labour and, inter alia, employment or salary.

Article 18

Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

Article 19

States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

Article 20

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.

2. Indigenous peoples deprived of their means of subsistence and development are entitled to just and fair redress.

Article 21

1. Indigenous peoples have the right, with-

out discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.

2. States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

Article 22

1. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration.

2. States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

Article 23

Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

Article 24

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right

to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.

2. Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.

Article 25

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

Article 26

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

2. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

3. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

Article 27

States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open

and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

Article 28

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.

2. Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.

Article 29

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.

2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.

3. States shall also take effective measures to ensure, as needed, that programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of indigenous peoples, as developed and implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented.

Article 30

1. Military activities shall not take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples, unless justified by a relevant public interest or otherwise freely agreed with or requested by the indigenous peoples concerned.

2. States shall undertake effective consultations with the indigenous peoples concerned, through appropriate procedures and in particular through their representative institutions, prior to using their lands or territories for military activities.

Article 31

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.

2. In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights.

Article 32

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies

for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

3. States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.

Article 33

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions. This does not impair the right of indigenous individuals to obtain citizenship of the States in which they live.

2. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the structures and to select the membership of their institutions in accordance with their own procedures.

Article 34

Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices and, in the cases where they exist, juridical systems or customs, in accordance with international human rights standards.

Article 35

Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the responsibilities of individuals to their communities.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

1. Indigenous peoples, in particular those divided by international borders, have the right to maintain and develop contacts, relations and cooperation, including activities for spiritual, cultural, political, economic and social purposes, with their own members as well as other peoples across borders. 2. States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take effective measures to facilitate the exercise and ensure the implementation of this right.

Article 37

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.

2. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as diminishing or eliminating the rights of indigenous peoples contained in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.

Article 38

States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take the appropriate measures, including legislative measures, to achieve the ends of this Declaration.

Article 39

Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration.

Article 40

Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision through just and fair

procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights.

Article 41

The organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations shall contribute to the full realization of the provisions of this Declaration through the mobilization, inter alia, of financial cooperation and technical assistance. Ways and means of ensuring participation of indigenous peoples on issues affecting them shall be established.

Article 42

The United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and States shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration.

Article 43

The rights recognized herein constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world.

Article 44

All the rights and freedoms recognized herein are equally guaranteed to male and female indigenous individuals.

Article 45

Nothing in this Declaration may be con-

strued as diminishing or extinguishing the rights indigenous peoples have now or may acquire in the future.

Article 46

1. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, people, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act contrary to the Charter of the United Nations or construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States.

2. In the exercise of the rights enunciated in the present Declaration, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all shall be respected. The exercise of the rights set forth in this Declaration shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law and in accordance with international human rights obligations. Any such limitations shall be non-discriminatory and strictly necessary solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for meeting the just and most compelling requirements of a democratic society.

3. The provisions set forth in this Declaration shall be interpreted in accordance with the principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, equality, non-discrimination, good governance and good faith.

Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD 2013: Latin America and the Caribbean Working Group Session

11 February 2013

Rapporteurs: Mirna Cunningham (UNPFII, Nicaragua) Francisco Pichon (IFAD Programme Manager);

With support from Valeria Galletti, IFAD

Summary of discussion and recommendations

1. Introduction and frame of reference:

Best practices and recommendations based on case studies and the Latin America and Caribbean consultation workshop.

- The meeting began with a summary presentation on the Preparatory Consultative Workshop held in Nicaragua for the first global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD (Managua, Nicaragua, 3-5 December 2012, at the Ministry of Family, Community, Cooperative and Associative Economy). Participants included indigenous leaders from 26 indigenous peoples in 14 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. They met for the purpose of:
 - (i) learning about IFAD's Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, best practices and challenges;
 - (ii) strengthening partnerships between IFAD and the region's indigenous peoples;
 - (iii) preparing for LAC participation in the Indigenous Peoples Forum meeting. The list of recommendations that emerged from the discussion was shared with participants.
- In the context of the establishment within IFAD of an Indigenous Peoples Forum, case studies were conducted on IFAD-funded projects to identify best practices, lessons learned and challenges in policy implementation. In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, it was decided that the case studies would be conducted in three countries in the region: Ecuador, Guatemala and Nicaragua.
- Best practices identified were summarized by the indigenous peoples' representatives:
 - (i) gender with identity approach;
 - (ii) agroindustrial decentralization;
 - (iii) balance between traditional knowledge and new knowledge to strengthen culture and build capacity for entrepreneurship;
 - (iv) respect for the organizational and governance systems of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants and their integration into project administration; and
 - (v) use of information and communication technologies.
- In addition, the main challenges identified were summarized as follows:
 - o Free prior and informed consent (FPIC) cutting across all project phases
 - o Social control and financial administration of projects by local actors
 - o Ongoing support and communication

throughout the project implementation organization chart

- o Legal assurances with regard to lands and territories
- o Agricultural production for the market versus food security
- o Negotiation of market prices
- o True inclusion of the Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples in country strategic opportunities programmes (COS-OPs)
- o Administrative responsibilities for indigenous peoples in projects

2. Discussion

The discussion focused on the following key issues:

- IFAD-funded projects and programmes
- Policy dialogue at the national level
- Communication and knowledge management

3. Recommendations/commitments of IFAD's Latin America and Caribbean Division

- (a) Broaden the range of consultation beyond municipalities to include indigenous leaders in consultations, in areas where IFAD is designing and supervising projects and programmes.
- (b) Ensure that COSOP exercises include more systematic participation by indigenous leaders. This will commence in countries where COSOP exercises are currently taking place: Guatemala, Mexico and Peru.
- (c) Ensure participation by indigenous leaders in round tables organized in the context of country evaluations conducted as part of

programmes, e.g. in Bolivia and Ecuador.

- (d) Consult with Forum members to ensure participation by indigenous representatives (identification of leaders).
- (e) Recognizing the need for ethnically disaggregated statistics, as well as cultural indicators, to include in IFAD's M&E systems, documentation and analytical work will be done to:
 - (a) determine what is available in the countries, starting with national statistics and census offices;
 - (b) identify "well-being" indicators to measure progress on poverty reduction based on the visions of different indigenous peoples; and
 - (c) promote the use of such disaggregated information, including indicators, in M&E systems.
 - (f) Carry out internal coordination within IFAD to standardize a global protocol for application of the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) principle.
 - (g) Recognizing that all diversities are important, use the instruments available to IFAD in dialogue with governments, to promote the inclusion of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities and other historically excluded sectors (COS-OPs, evaluation round tables, dialogue on general matters, others).
 - (h) Promote equally the inclusion of indigenous peoples in operations co-financed with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Adaptation of Small-scale Agricultural Production (ASAP) in Bolivia, Honduras and Nicaragua.
 - (i) Make learning routes available to indigenous peoples (PROCASUR Regional Corporation).

- (j) Generate and cultivate dialogue between organizations participating in the Forum and the IFAD regional division in the framework of organizing the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples to be held in 2014. The IFAD regional division could play an instrumental role in the preparatory meeting to be held in Mexico.
- (k) Indigenous peoples need to strengthen their partnerships and relations with international NGOs and other development cooperation agencies to consolidate their capacity for dialogue and participation.
- (l) Propose participation by indigenous peoples in the process of the Post MDGs 2015 agenda to be carried out by IFAD and other United Nations agencies, particularly in view of the need to promote rural development indicators responsive to different visions.
- (m) Monitor and follow up on commitments through the sub-regions (Brazil for the Southern Cone, Guatemala for Mesoamerica and Peru for the Andean region), taking into account the ongoing decentralization process at IFAD.

Statement by Quinault President Fawn Sharp on the Alta Declaration resulting from two days of negotiations between the world's indigenous nations

Taholah, Quinault Indian Nation
12 June 2013

On behalf of the Quinault government I wish to congratulate the Sami Parliament of Norway and all of our fellow delegates participating in the Global Indigenous Peoples Preparatory Conference that adjourned today for a successful international meeting. The Alta Declaration that has come from this Conference constitutes a clear and well conceived statement that should aid the United Nations World Conference on Indigenous peoples in 2014 as it prepares its plans for implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This important and detailed statement by more than 400 representatives of Indigenous nations and peoples around the world will now serve as a road map for implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. UN member states must now formulate their own road map at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in September 2014 when the United Nations will conduct a High Level Plenary session to consider action proposals.

Each indigenous nation now has a well thought out set of specific proposals on which to base their talks with member UN states and to negotiate specific measures to implement provisions of the UN Declaration that are important to them. My government and the governments of Indian Nations, Alaskan Natives and Hawaiian Natives in the United States must now step forward to place the Alta Declaration at the door of the United States government to commence constructive talks and negotiations.

Indigenous Nations and each UN member state now have clearly focused issues on which to base government-to-government negotiations. These negotiations can help eliminate violence against indigenous nations caused by rampant development polluting lands and waters as well as forcing indigenous peoples out of their territories. Indigenous nations and states' governments may now see a path to establishing constructive solutions to long festering conflicts. We must see these negotiations begin in earnest in 2014.

The Quinault Indian Nation promote the Alta Declaration and will seek to engage the United Nations, its member states and specifically the United States government focusing on four specific proposals:

1. My government will urge that the United Nations establish a permanent body with a mandate to promote, monitor and review the implementation of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including but not limited to those affirmed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and that such a body be established with the full, equal and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples: in the spirit of the UN Trusteeship Council only we urge that instead of forming a UNDRIP Monitoring Council with UN member states only, we urge that Indigenous governments (constitutional and customary) be seated as formal voting members (rotating membership embracing all UN regions).

2. We shall advocate that the topic of violence against indigenous women, and children become the central focus of a high-level conference that will consider the “safety and well-being of indigenous women and children and to share perspectives and best practices.
3. We will urge that the United Nations implement Article 4 of the UNDRIP by recommending to states governments the formalization of “government-to-government” negotiations (between states’ governments and constitutional or customary indigenous governments) as a principal method for conflict resolution, and the application of the principle of “free, prior and informed consent;” and that “consultations” serve only as a preparatory step leading to formal negotiations between indigenous constitutional or customary governments and the state government supervised by an independent third party.
4. Finally, we my government shall urge that the UN take action to “recognize indigenous constitutional and customary governments” by seating them in an appropriate UN forum with a dignified and appropriate status of regular participants in UN activities. We urge furthermore that the UN recognize the unique position that indigenous peoples have as individuals belonging to distinct nations, and therefore their nations may represent them or they may be represented in the UN system along with other civil society participants.

The Quinault Indian Nations has committed itself to engaging UN member states and indigenous governments throughout the world to advance these proposals and the Alta Declaration’s positions that are reasonable, realistic and achievable for indigenous nations.