



7th Session of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Agenda item 3: World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Statement by Mr Morse Caoagas Flores UNIPP Technical Secretariat

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Mr Chair,
Distinguished members of the Expert Mechanism,
Indigenous representatives, distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen.

I have the honour to address the Expert Mechanism in my capacity as the Technical Secretariat of United Nations Indigenous Peoples Partnership (UNIPP).

Launched during the 10th Session of the UNPFII in May 2011, UNIPP is a global inter-agency collaboration between the ILO, OHCHR, UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA. It supports efforts towards the realisation of indigenous peoples' rights as recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and ILO Convention 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries . A major focus of UNIPP's work is building the capacities of governments and indigenous peoples for establishing consultative and participatory processes at the country level.

Overseen by a Policy Board that includes five indigenous members, with one of them being the Board's Co-Chair, UNIPP currently implements joint country-based projects in Bolivia, Nicaragua, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Nepal and one regional project in Southeast Asia. Let me highlight that many, if not most, of the activities being implemented by UNIPP is a follow-up to specific recommendations issued by the UN mechanisms that deal mainly with indigenous peoples, namely the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), and the Special Rapportuer on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as recommendations emanating from the UN human rights treaty bodies, the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review, and the ILO supervisory mechanisms.

Mr Chair, distinguished members of the Expert Mechanism,

Following the Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference held in Alta, Norway, in June 2013, UNIPP partners have taken note of the four themes identified in the Alta outcome document. UNIPP is also pleased to have been engaged in the preparations for the 2014 World Conference,

including the indigenous peoples' preparatory thematic meetings and the regional preparatory processes of indigenous peoples in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and Africa.

In Asia, UNIPP supported the Asia Preparatory Meeting for World Conference from 8-9 November 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand, in collaboration with the Asia Indigenous Peoples' Pact Foundation (AIPP). UNIPP also participated in the open-ended meeting on side events to be held prior to and during the WCIP in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 5 to 6 February 2014. In conjunction with a field monitoring visit to Managua, UNIPP and its partners participated in the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference in Latin America held from 12-13 February, along with over 50 indigenous leaders from across the region. In Africa, UNIPP provided technical support to the country's hosting of the pre-meeting session of the UNPFII, held in Brazzaville in March 2013 and attended the third International Forum on Indigenous Peoples of Central Africa (FIPAC 3) where the World Conference was also a highlight of the discussion.

Furthermore, the World Conference has been central in the agenda of UNIPP's recent policy dialogue meeting held in May 2014 and the Technical Secretariat extends its sincere appreciation to the former Chairperson of EMRIP, Chief Wilton Littlechild, for attending the dialogue himself.

Mr Chair, distinguished members of the Expert Mechanism,

The Partnership's latest publication- *UNIPP Success Stories: cooperating to promote and protect indigenous peoples' rights* -, which we launched in May at the 13th Session of the UNPFII in New York, provides an excellent insight into UNIPP's work. It is indeed illustrative of what the Partnership has achieved since the start of project implementation two and a half years ago. By forging strategic partnerships, UNIPP has succeeded in enhancing UN country-level support for the implementation of international standards and in making indigenous peoples' issues more visible to a broad section of society. In doing so, consultation mechanisms and participation of indigenous peoples in national development processes were strengthened and several national development programmes have taken indigenous issues into account for the first time (any examples here?).

Mr Chair, the increasing demand for UNIPP assistance from governments, indigenous peoples and the UNTCs is a very good indication that UNIPP has successfully created a shared vision on indigenous issues that needs continued support and commitment.

Given that the objective of the World Conference is to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples, including pursuing the objectives of the UNDRIP,¹ UNIPP looks forward to participating in the World Conference with a view of sharing its practical experiences and lessons learned as a contribution towards an action-oriented outcome.

Finally, as UNIPP is based both on the spirit of consultation and participation and the combined expertise and experience of its partners, UNIPP would like to reiterate its full support to the Conference and call for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples.

¹ General Assembly Resolution 66/296, 17 September 2012.

