



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

15 September, 2014

Excellency,

I refer to the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, scheduled for 22 and 23 September, 2014 in the General Assembly Hall.

In this regard, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 12 September, 2014, from the H.E. Mr. Andrej Logar, Permanent Representative of Slovenia, and H.E. Ms. Marjon Kamara, Permanent Representative of Liberia, the co-Advisers of the intergovernmental negotiations, reporting on the resulting draft Outcome Document of the High-Level Plenary Meeting, consistent with General Assembly Resolution 66/296.

I have the further honour to submit to Member States the attached draft Outcome Document and to inform your Excellency that the draft Outcome Document is being placed under silent procedure until 3:00 p.m. today, 15 September, 2014.

I wish to convey my deep gratitude to Ambassador Logar, and Ambassador Kamara for their dedication and tireless efforts as stewards of the process, and to applaud them for ensuring the emergence of a consensus draft Outcome Document. Let me also thank Member States for their active participation in the intergovernmental process and their commitment to an outcome based on consensus.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Ashe".

John W. Ashe

To All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



Permanent Mission  
Republic of Slovenia



Permanent Mission  
Republic of Liberia

12 September 2014

Dear Mr President,

We have the honour to inform you that the intergovernmental negotiations on the draft Outcome Document for the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the Sixty-ninth Session of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, concluded the evening of 12 September, 2014.

We have the further honour to submit to you the attached Outcome Document, which emerged from the intergovernmental negotiations with Member States.

We recommend that this Outcome Document be transmitted to Member States today, Monday, 15 September, 2014.

It was indeed an honour to serve your high office as Co-Advisers and we are pleased that we were able to complete the task you conferred on us well before the conclusion of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session.

Please accept Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

H.E. Ms. Marjon Kamara  
Permanent Representative of  
Liberia to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Andrej Logar  
Permanent Representative of  
Slovenia to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. John W. Ashe  
President of the General Assembly

**Outcome document to be adopted by the General Assembly  
on 22 September 2014**

**69/. Outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General  
Assembly: The World Conference on indigenous peoples**

*The General Assembly*

*Adopts the following outcome document:*

**Outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the  
General Assembly: The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples**

1. We, the Heads of State and Government, Ministers and representatives of Member States, reaffirming our solemn commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, in a spirit of cooperation with the indigenous peoples of the world are assembled at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 22 and 23 September 2014, on the occasion of the World Conference on indigenous peoples, to reiterate the important and continuing role of the United Nations in promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples.
2. We welcome the indigenous peoples' preparatory processes for the World Conference including the Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference for the World Conference on indigenous peoples held in Alta, Norway, in June 2013. We take note of the outcome document of the Alta Conference<sup>1</sup> and other contributions made by indigenous peoples. We also welcome the inclusive preparatory process for this High-level Plenary meeting, including the comprehensive engagement of the representatives of indigenous peoples.
3. We reaffirm our support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and our commitments made in this respect, to consult and cooperate in good faith with indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to

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<sup>1</sup> Alta Outcome Document A/67/994.

obtain their free, prior and informed consent, before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them, in accordance with the applicable principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

4. We reaffirm our solemn commitment to respect, promote and advance and in no way diminish the rights of indigenous peoples, and to uphold the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the General Assembly on 13 September 2007<sup>2</sup>.

5. In addition to the Declaration, we recall the other major achievements of the past two decades in building an international framework for the advancement of the rights and aspirations of the world's indigenous peoples, including the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the creation of an Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We commit to give due consideration to recommendations and advice issued by these bodies in cooperation with indigenous peoples.

6. We encourage those states that have not yet ratified or acceded to the International Labour Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (no. 169), to consider doing so; we recall the obligation under the Convention, of ratifying States to develop coordinated and systematic action to protect the rights of indigenous peoples<sup>3</sup>.

7. We commit to take, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, appropriate measures at the national level, including legislative, policy and administrative measures, to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to promote awareness of it among all sectors of society, including members of legislatures, the judiciary and the civil service.

8. We commit to cooperate with indigenous peoples, through their own representative institutions, to develop and implement national action plans, strategies, or other measures, where relevant, to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

9. We commit to promote and protect the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities and to continue to improve their social and economic conditions, including by developing targeted measures for the aforementioned action plans, strategies, and measures, in

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<sup>2</sup>A/RES/61/295.

<sup>3</sup>United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1650, No. 28383.

collaboration with indigenous persons with disabilities. We further commit to ensure that national legislative, policy and institutional structures related to indigenous peoples are inclusive of indigenous persons with disabilities, and contribute to the advancement of their rights.

10. We commit to work with indigenous peoples to disaggregate data, as appropriate, or conduct surveys, and to utilise holistic indicators of indigenous peoples' well-being to address the situation and needs of indigenous peoples and individuals, particularly older people, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

11. We commit to ensure equal access to high-quality education that recognizes the diversity of the culture of indigenous peoples, as well as health, housing, water, sanitation and other economic and social programmes to improve their well-being, including through initiatives, policies, and the provision of resources. We intend to empower indigenous peoples to deliver these programmes as far as possible.

12. We recognize the importance of indigenous peoples health practices and their traditional medicine and knowledge.

13. We commit to ensure that indigenous individuals have equal access to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. We further commit to intensify efforts to reduce rates of HIV and AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and non-communicable diseases, by focusing on prevention, including through appropriate programmes, policies and resources, and ensure access to sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

14. We commit to promoting the right of every indigenous child, in community with members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, profess and practice his or her own religion or use his or her own language.

15. We support the empowerment and capacity-building of indigenous youth, including their full and effective participation in decision making processes in matters that affect them. We commit to develop, in consultation with indigenous peoples, policies, programmes and resources, where relevant, targeted at the well-being of indigenous youth particularly in the areas of health, education, employment and the transmission of traditional knowledge, languages and practices, and to take measures to promote awareness and understanding of their rights.

16. We acknowledge that indigenous peoples' justice institutions can play a positive role in providing access to justice, dispute resolution

and contribute to harmonious relationships within indigenous peoples' communities and within society. We commit to coordinate and conduct dialogue with indigenous peoples' justice institutions, where such institutions exist.

17. We commit to support the empowerment of indigenous women and to formulate and implement, in collaboration with indigenous peoples, particularly indigenous women and their organizations, policies and programmes designed to promote capacity-building and strengthen their leadership. We support measures which will ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous women in decision making processes at all levels and in all areas, and eliminate barriers for their participation in political, economic, social and cultural life.

18. We commit to intensify our efforts, in cooperation with indigenous peoples, to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous peoples and individuals, in particular, women, children, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, by strengthening legal, policy and institutional frameworks.

19. We invite the Human Rights Council to consider examining the causes and consequences of violence against indigenous women and girls, in consultation with the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other Special Procedures within their respective mandates. We also invite the Commission on the Status of Women to consider the issue of "the empowerment of indigenous women" at a future session.

20. We recognize commitments made by states, with respect to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to 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.

21. We also recognize commitments made by states, with respect to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to establish at the national level, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent processes to acknowledge, advance and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to lands, territories and resources.

22. We recognise that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. We acknowledge the importance of indigenous peoples participating, wherever possible, in the benefits of their knowledge, innovations and practices.

23. We intend to work with indigenous peoples to address the impact or potential impact, on indigenous peoples, of major development projects, including those involving the activities of extractive industries, including with the aim of managing risks appropriately.

24. We recall the responsibility of transnational corporations and other business enterprises to respect all applicable laws and international principles, including the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and to operate transparently in a socially and environmentally responsible manner, and in this regard we commit to take further steps, as appropriate, to prevent abuses of the rights of indigenous peoples.

25. We commit to develop, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, and where appropriate, policies, programmes and resources to support indigenous peoples' occupations, traditional subsistence activities, economies, livelihoods, food security and nutrition.

26. We recognise the importance of the role indigenous peoples can play in economic, social, and environmental development, regarding traditional sustainable agricultural practices, including traditional seed supply systems, as well as access to credit and other financial services, markets, secure land tenure, health care, social services, education, and training, knowledge and appropriate and affordable technologies, including for irrigation, and water harvesting and storage.

27. We affirm and recognize the importance of indigenous peoples' religious and cultural sites and of providing access to and repatriation of their ceremonial objects and human remains in accordance with the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We commit to develop, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, fair, transparent and effective mechanisms for access to and repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains at national and international levels.

28. We invite the United Nations Human Rights Council, taking into account the views of indigenous peoples, to review the mandates of its existing mechanisms, in particular the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, within the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly, with a view to modify and improve the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to more effectively promote respect for the Declaration, including by better assisting Member States to monitor, evaluate and improve the achievement of the ends of the Declaration.

29. We invite Human Rights Treaty bodies to consider the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in accordance with their respective mandates. We encourage Member States to include, as appropriate, information on the situation on the

rights of indigenous peoples, including the measures taken to pursue the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in reports to Human Rights Treaty bodies, and in the Universal Periodic Review.

30. We welcome the increasingly important role of national human rights institutions<sup>4</sup>, as well as regional human rights institutions in contributing to the achievement of the ends of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We encourage the private sector, civil society, and academia to take an active role in promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples.

31. We request the Secretary General, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, the Inter-Agency Support Group on indigenous issues and member states, to begin development of a system wide action plan within existing resources, to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to report to the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly, through the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council, on progress made. We invite the Secretary General to designate, by the end of the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly, an existing senior United Nations system official, with access to the highest levels of decision-making within the United Nations system, with the responsibility for the coordination of this action plan, for raising at the highest possible level increased awareness of the rights of indigenous peoples and for increasing coherence of the activities of the United Nations system in this regard.

32. We invite the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as the resident coordinators, where appropriate, to support the implementation, upon request, of national action plans, strategies or other measures to achieve the ends of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in accordance with national priorities and United Nations development assistance frameworks, where they exist, through better coordination and cooperation.

33. We commit to consider, at the 70<sup>th</sup> session of General Assembly, ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, including any concrete proposals made by the Secretary General in response to the request in OP40.

34. We encourage governments to recognize the significant contribution of indigenous peoples in the promotion of sustainable development, in order to achieve a just balance among the economic,

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<sup>4</sup> A/RES/68/171.

social and environmental needs of present and future generations, and also the necessity to promote harmony with nature to protect our planet earth and its ecosystems, known as Mother Earth in a number of countries and regions.

35. We commit to respect the contributions of indigenous peoples to ecosystem management and sustainable development. This includes knowledge generated through experience in hunting, gathering, fishing, pastoralism and agriculture, as well as their sciences, technologies and cultures.

36. We confirm that indigenous peoples' knowledge and strategies to sustain their environment should be respected and taken into account when we develop national and international approaches on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

37. We note that indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In this regard, we commit to give due consideration to all the rights of indigenous peoples in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

38. We invite Member States and actively encourage the private sector, and other institutions to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues, IFAD Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility, and the United Nations Indigenous Peoples Partnership as a means of respecting and promoting the rights of indigenous peoples worldwide.

39. We request the Secretary-General to include in the final report on the achievement of the millennium development goals, relevant information on indigenous peoples.

40. We request the Secretary General, in consultation with the Interagency support group and member states, and taking into account the views expressed by indigenous peoples, to report to the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the present resolution, and to present options to the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, including recommendations regarding: a) using, modifying and improving existing United Nations mechanisms to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People; b) ways to enhance a coherent, system-wide approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People; and c) concrete proposals to enable participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions, building on his report on ways and

means of promoting participation at the United Nations of indigenous peoples' representatives on the issues affecting them<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> A/HRC/21/24.