



# General Assembly

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Agenda item 66

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2012

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/67/454)]

### 67/153. Rights of indigenous peoples

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and the Economic and Social Council relating to the rights of indigenous peoples,

*Reaffirming* its resolutions 65/198 of 21 December 2010 and 66/142 of 19 December 2011, as well as its resolution 66/296 of 17 September 2012 on the organization of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held on 22 and 23 September 2014, and noting its inclusive preparatory process, as well as the participation of indigenous peoples in the Conference,

*Inviting* Governments and indigenous peoples to organize international or regional conferences and other thematic events to contribute to the preparations for the Conference, and encouraging the participation of the three United Nations mechanisms on indigenous peoples<sup>1</sup> at these events,

*Recalling* its resolution 59/174 of 20 December 2004 on the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2005–2014) and its resolution 60/142 of 16 December 2005 on the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, in which it adopted “Partnership for action and dignity” as the theme for the Second Decade,

*Recalling also* the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,<sup>2</sup> which addresses their individual and collective rights,

<sup>1</sup> Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 61/295, annex.



*Recalling further* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>3</sup> the 2005 World Summit Outcome<sup>4</sup> and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,<sup>5</sup>

*Recalling* the outcome document entitled “The future we want” of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,<sup>6</sup>

*Recalling also* Human Rights Council resolution 21/24 of 28 September 2012 on human rights and indigenous peoples,<sup>7</sup>

*Recalling further* Commission on the Status of Women resolutions 49/7 of 11 March 2005, entitled “Indigenous women: beyond the ten-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action”,<sup>8</sup> and 56/4 of 9 March 2012, entitled “Indigenous women: key actors in poverty and hunger eradication”,<sup>9</sup>

*Recalling* the first Peoples’ World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, hosted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in Cochabamba from 20 to 22 April 2010,<sup>10</sup>

*Stressing* the importance of promoting and pursuing the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples also through international cooperation to support national and regional efforts to achieve the ends of the Declaration, including the right to maintain and strengthen the distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions of indigenous peoples and the right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State,

*Recognizing* the value and the diversity of the cultures and the form of social organization of indigenous peoples and their holistic traditional scientific knowledge of their lands, natural resources and environment,

*Concerned* about the extreme disadvantages that indigenous peoples have typically faced across a range of social and economic indicators and about the impediments to their full enjoyment of their rights,

*Recalling* its resolution 65/198, by which it decided to expand the mandate of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations so that it could assist representatives of indigenous peoples’ organizations and communities to participate in sessions of the Human Rights Council and of human rights treaty bodies, on the basis of diverse and renewed participation and in accordance with relevant rules and regulations, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, and urged States to contribute to the Fund,

*Recalling also* its decision, taken in its resolution 66/296, to expand the mandate of the Fund so that it can assist, in an equitable manner, representatives of

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<sup>3</sup> Resolution 55/2.

<sup>4</sup> Resolution 60/1.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution 65/1.

<sup>6</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>7</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/67/53/Add.1)*, chap. I.

<sup>8</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. D.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 2012, *Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2012/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. D.

<sup>10</sup> See A/64/777, annexes I and II.

indigenous peoples, organizations, institutions and communities to participate in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, including in the preparatory process, in accordance with relevant rules and regulations,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, takes note with appreciation of his report on the rights of indigenous peoples,<sup>11</sup> and encourages all Governments to respond favourably to his requests for visits;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the evaluation of the progress made in the achievement of the goal and objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People;<sup>12</sup>

3. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the ways and means of promoting participation at the United Nations of indigenous peoples' representatives on issues affecting them;<sup>13</sup>

4. *Further takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations;<sup>14</sup>

5. *Urges* Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations and the Trust Fund for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, and invites indigenous organizations and private institutions and individuals to do likewise;

6. *Encourages* those States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the International Labour Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169)<sup>15</sup> to consider doing so and to consider supporting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,<sup>2</sup> and welcomes the increased support by States for the Declaration;

7. *Encourages* States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, to take the appropriate measures, including legislative measures, to achieve the ends of the Declaration;

8. *Encourages* all interested parties, in particular indigenous peoples, to disseminate and consider good practices at different levels as a practical guide on how to attain the goals of the Declaration;

9. *Welcomes* the celebration of the high-level event to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Declaration, held on 17 May 2012 during the eleventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues with the participation of Member States and representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations, as part of the preparations for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in 2014;

10. *Also welcomes* the proclamation by the General Assembly of the year 2013 as the International Year of Quinoa<sup>16</sup> and the global launch of the Year, to be

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<sup>11</sup> A/66/288.

<sup>12</sup> A/67/273.

<sup>13</sup> A/HRC/21/24.

<sup>14</sup> A/67/221.

<sup>15</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1650, No. 28383.

<sup>16</sup> See resolution 66/221.

held on 31 January 2013, and encourages all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations and all other relevant stakeholders to take advantage of the Year as a way of promoting the traditional knowledge of the Andean indigenous peoples, contributing to the achievement of food security, nutrition and poverty eradication and raising awareness of their contribution to social, economic and environmental development, and to share good practices on the implementation of activities during the Year;<sup>17</sup>

11. *Decides* to continue, at its sixty-ninth session, its consideration of the ways and means of promoting the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples at meetings of relevant United Nations bodies and other relevant United Nations meetings and processes on issues affecting indigenous peoples, on the basis of the rules of procedure of such bodies and existing United Nations procedural rules and regulations, taking into account the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>13</sup> existing practices for the accreditation of representatives of indigenous peoples at the United Nations and the objectives of the Declaration;

12. *Encourages* Member States to respond fully and promptly to the questionnaire on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with Member States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a comprehensive last report on the achievement of the goal and objectives of the Second Decade, and its impact on the Millennium Development Goals, to be submitted no later than May 2014, which shall serve as an input to the preparatory process for the World Conference and to the discussion on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;

14. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question at its sixty-eighth session under the item entitled "Rights of indigenous peoples".

*60th plenary meeting  
20 December 2012*

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<sup>17</sup> See A/67/553, appendix.