

2018-04-20

Statement under agenda item 11: Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Per-Olof Nutti

Madame Chair,

I am speaking in my capacity as the President of the Sami Parliament in Sweden on behalf of the Sami Parliaments in Norway, Sweden and Finland and the Sami Parliamentary Council as well as the Sami Council.

Finland, Sweden and Norway all voted in favor of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. All three Governments have reaffirmed their commitment to pursue the objectives of the Declaration in 2014 by adopting the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

In the Outcome Document the States declared their commitment 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 Declaration.

The states further stated their intent to cooperate with indigenous peoples to develop and implement national action plans, strategies or other measures to achieve the ends of the Declaration. As of today neither Sweden nor Finland nor Norway has adopted such action plans or strategies. We hope that the commitment given will be duly fulfilled.

At a regional level, it is hard to avoid mentioning the Nordic Sami Convention, which has been initialled by the Governments of Sweden, Finland and Norway to its respective Sami Parliaments on February 19th 2017. The Sámi Parliaments have not yet “ratified” or “approved” the text in the convention. We will not accept a convention where the autonomy and self-governing authority of the Sami Parliaments is not ensured, nor a convention that is

not in line with the UNDRIP. In anticipation we will be able to report on the status on this matter at the Permanent Forum's 18th session.

We have participated in the PGA lead process to increase the participation of Indigenous Peoples' Representative Institutions, but are provoked by the UN Member states unwillingness to adhere to the principles of the UNDRIP on consulting in good faith. My colleague, President Aili Keskitalo, addressed this issue in the PGA dialogue the other day. We would like our representative bodies to have the same participatory rights as the majority of observers to the UN. Only through participation in relevant UN forums, will the United Nations be able to effectively address and resolve issues affecting Indigenous Peoples. A good example would be the upcoming negotiations on establishing the Indigenous Peoples' Platform under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

We expect the PGA to do what is in his power to make sure that regional consultations really do take place within the coming years as specified in the GA-resolution.

Thank you for your attention.