



**MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

**Statement by Amb. Jorge Montaña, Permanent Representative of Mexico on
behalf of the Group of Friends of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples
ECOSOC - Item 19 (h) – Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

Mr. President,

It is my honor to speak on behalf of the Group of Friends of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, comprised of Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Guatemala, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Spain and my own delegation, Mexico.

The Group of Friends welcomes the Report on the fourteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and would like to thank the Chair of the Permanent Forum, Ms. Megan Davis, for her presentation in this regard. Furthermore, we welcome the report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and would like to take this opportunity to highlight our general views on a number of the important recommendations and proposals contained therein.

First of all, we would like to acknowledge the ongoing work on the development of a system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It is important to note in this regard that the report is preliminary and we encourage the Inter-Agency Support Group, Member States and Indigenous Peoples to continue consultations on the further elaboration of the system-wide action plan.

Secondly, the Outcome Document of the World Conference invited the Human Rights Council to review the mandates of its existing mechanisms, in particular the Expert mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – an invitation which the Group of friends welcomes. As for the system-wide action plan the review of the EMRIP is currently ongoing and it is important for the Groups of Friends to underline the necessity of maintaining an inclusive process, which ensures the participation of Indigenous Peoples throughout these deliberations.

Lastly, the Group of Friends would like to commend the Secretary-General for the concrete proposals set forward in his report in order to enable the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions, in particular, the proposal which indicates that the President of the General Assembly may wish to consider appointing co-facilitators or advisers, including indigenous representatives, to lead an open-ended consultation process among, inter alia, Member States, Indigenous Peoples' representatives and existing mechanisms of the United Nations on the possible procedural and institutional steps and selection criteria necessary to enable such participation. Indigenous Peoples must, of course, be actively involved in the process of determining their participation, in partnership with Member States.

I thank you Mr. President,