

International Indian Treaty Council



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1st Preparatory Committee meeting of The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (UN Conference on SIDS 2014)
24 - 26 Feb 2014

Presented by Roberto Múkaró Borrero (Taino),
International Indian Treaty Council on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group

Thank you for this opportunity to submit these comments during the first meeting of the preparatory committee (PrepCom) to discuss the objectives and substantive theme of The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States as well as organizational and procedural matters, including the rules of procedure, and to elect the bureau.

The 1994 Declaration of Barbados and Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (BOPA) recognizes the small size, isolation and fragility of island ecosystems, their renowned biological diversity is among the most threatened in the world.

BOPA also recognizes that “Full attention should be given to gender equity and to the important role and contribution of women, as well as to the needs of women and other major groups, including children, youth and indigenous people” in National action, policies and measures, capacity building, as well as regional and international action.

While this recognition is appreciated, Indigenous Peoples continue to be generally invisible within the implementation of and follow-up for BOPA and its related processes. National reports; the 2013 Outcome of the Inter-regional preparatory meeting for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States; the 2013 Pacific Regional Synthesis Report; as well as the Caribbean and AIMS regional reports provide examples of this trend.

With this in mind, the Indigenous Peoples Major Group recommends:

- 1) That the preparatory processes and the 2014 UN Conference on SIDS recognize the critical role of Indigenous Peoples in the achievement of sustainable development and the importance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the context of global, regional, national and subnational implementation of SIDs development strategies.
- 2) That the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, including financial support for participation, is ensured during the preparatory processes and the 2014 UN Conference on SIDS.
- 3) That the term “Indigenous Peoples” specifically is used within outcome documents of the preparatory processes and the 2014 UN Conference on SIDS in relation to any text referencing Indigenous Peoples.

Thank you.

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