

Islamic Republic of

I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by

The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

before

the Third Committee of the 68th Session of the GA

on

Agenda Item 66: Rights of Indigenous Peoples

New York, 21 October 2013

In the name of God, the most Compassionate the most Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to thank the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the representative of the Secretariat of Indigenous Peoples for their presentations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran takes this opportunity to express its appreciation to the Special Rapporteur James Anaya, whose mandate expires soon, for his sincere efforts, in the promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of the indigenous peoples and his commitment to the enhancement of the rights of indigenous peoples around the world.

As referred to by the special rapporteur in his report still there is much to be done for further improvement of indigenous peoples situation. We consider the declaration as the most important document and a primary normative framework that needs to be promoted.

Mr. Chairman,

We support the important work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples, especially in ensuring that the discussion on indigenous issues in the areas of cultural, the environmental, economic and social development, as well as education, health and human rights continue to be highlighted and allowing for continuous productive interaction between indigenous peoples and the international community.

We look forward to the outcome of the permanent forum and the review process as well as the evaluation of its working methods.

Mr. Chairman,

Iran welcomes the preparatory process for the upcoming World Conference on Indigenous Peoples to be held in 2014, and note with appreciation the work by the indigenous peoples in this regard. The world conference presents an important opportunity to bring the various issues relating to indigenous peoples to the attention of the world in a more comprehensive manner.

In conclusion, we acknowledge the many contributions made by indigenous and tribal peoples to the human civilization and to sharing of their traditional knowledge and their rich legacy with the nations.

Thank You