

Check against delivery



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Madam Chair, Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen

I have the pleasure to introduce to you today document **A/69/278 (Note by the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples)**.

This is the first time the report is presented under the Fund's new name, which was changed as a result of General Assembly resolution 68/149 (OP 10). The report provides an update on the activities of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples since the submission of the previous biennial report in 2012 (A/67/221). In particular, the report gives information on the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh annual sessions of the Board of Trustees, held in 2013 and 2014 respectively. It also reports on the outcome of the inter-sessional meetings of the Board, a working method established to respond to the expansion of the mandate of the Fund to sessions of human rights treaty bodies and of the Human Rights Council. The report also provides information on the expansion of the mandate of the Fund to support the participation of indigenous peoples in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, an expansion that was decided by The Modalities Resolution for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, resolution 66/296 (OP 13). The report stresses the need and calls for constant and sustained financial support from Governments and other donors to enable the Fund to carry out its mandate.

Madam Chair,

I wish to briefly focus on the expansion of the Fund's mandate as regards participation of indigenous peoples' representatives in and preparation of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

1. In total, the Fund supported the participation of 105 indigenous peoples' representatives in the World Conference process:
 - 21 of the grants supported representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the interactive hearing held in June 2014 on the organization of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples;
 - the remaining 84 grants supported representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the World Conference itself.
2. The Fund worked in close coordination with the Indigenous Global Coordinating Committee for the selection of grantees, and the grants were divided equally amongst the seven indigenous regions.
3. The final decisions in the selection of grantees lay with the Secretary-General, acting on the advice of the Fund's Board of Trustees and applying the pre-established selection criteria.

Your generous support to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples is greatly appreciated. However, I wish to bring to your attention that although the level of contributions to the Fund increased in 2013 and 2014 compared with previous years, it is imperative that the Fund receive sustained and increasing support from Governments and other donors in the future in order to fulfil its mandate in a satisfactory manner in the light of increasing demands. After assessing the present financial needs of the Fund, the Board of Trustees of the Fund recommended a target of \$1.4 million for the biennium 2014-2015. This amount will allow the Board to meet one third of the requests for funding that it currently receives.

I thank you for your attention and your support to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples.