



PERMANENT MISSION OF SWEDEN

Geneva

The Permanent Mission of Sweden presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and with reference to your fax message from 13 February 2012 regarding “human rights and indigenous people” has the honour to reply as follows.

The OHCHR invited Permanent Missions to submit views on the ideal ways and means to promote participation at the UN of recognised peoples' representatives on issues affecting them and how such participation might be structured. Sweden can see merit in the United Nations General Assembly adopting a decision setting out general procedures that would apply to indigenous peoples' representatives' participation at United Nations meetings, given that indigenous peoples' representatives are not always organized as non-governmental organisations, and that issues affecting them are not limited to human rights. This would also be in line with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted by the General Assembly, and could potentially contribute to mainstreaming indigenous rights in the UN-system.

Procedures could be based either on existing procedures to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, or on existing procedures to accredit non-governmental organisations. The latter procedure was used in the Working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

GENEVA

The Permanent Mission of Sweden avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 4 April 2012

