New York, 23 September 2014
140923/02

PRESS RELEASE

EU participation in United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

The UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples is being held from September 22-23 in New York. The Conference has the objective of sharing perspectives on the promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples as proclaimed in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to transform international commitments into concrete action.

The European Union as a contributor to the preparations for the Conference has consistently emphasised the need for the full, effective and unhindered participation of indigenous peoples and civil society organisations at the Conference. EU Special Representative on Human Rights Mr Stavros Lambrinidis participated in the opening plenary, which adopted the Conference outcome, and delivered a statement at a conference roundtable, focused on stronger UN and international action.

"The protection of the rights of indigenous peoples is a clear priority for the EU and the EU will do its share to make sure that the decisions and recommendations of the outcome document will be implemented" said EUSR Lambrinidis.

Together with the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples' Rights Ms Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, the Special Representative also spoke at a side event where a European Union funded project on monitoring indigenous peoples' rights was presented. "The tools developed by the project will enable us to respond to the need for monitoring indigenous peoples' rights worldwide as identified during the negotiations for the outcome document" said the Special Representative.


FOR FURTHER DETAILS:
Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780- Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu @EUHighRepSpox
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu @AshtonSpox Maja
Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu
Eamonn Prendergast +32 460 75 32 93 – Eamonn.Prendergast@ec.europa.eu
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