

Concluding speech

Informal Friendly States and Indigenous Peoples' representatives meeting in Helsinki

2018-02-27--28

Per-Olof Nutti

I would like to thank you all for two days of very constructive work over the last two days. We are in the middle of a very important process to insure the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work regarding climate change. We, the Indigenous Peoples of the world, are the peoples who are at the frontlines of the changing climate.

We are among the ones who get earliest and most directly affected by changing climate, but also, given how closely our ways of life are connected to nature, we also hold traditional knowledge that is of value in the work to reduce the effects of the changes. So the work that we are doing together here is of importance both to the international community as a whole and to us as indigenous peoples, so that we can be included in humankind's common effort to save our planet and to get our right to participation in matters that affect us fulfilled.

As the president of one of the Sámi parliaments, I'm very glad to have been able to welcome you to our part of the world. We are thankful for the continued engagement of the Nordic states in the process of operationalizing the local communities and indigenous peoples' platform, and we wish to once again thank the Nordic states and the Nordic council of ministers and especially Finland for organizing this meeting.

We have had many interesting and good interventions over these two days, both from our indigenous sisters and brothers, from the Finnish minister of environment, energy and housing, from other Parties, experts and UN officials. I think we have more clarity about the options that we have in terms of structure for the platform, and also a more unified understanding of what the platform should be and what we want it to provide.

While we may not be in agreement about everything, I am certain that these two days have represented a further step towards the eventual operationalization of the platform. That is why, in conclusion, I think that we can leave this informal meeting on a positive note, even while we are wary of the challenging work that still lies ahead. I wish to finally conclude with one last joik.