**Indigenous Family
of the Civil Society**

Comments on the Chair's non-paper – Outline of the Final Document(s)

We would like to bring attention to some issues that we consider vital to be present in the Political Chapeau and Operational Part of the final WSIS documents.

1. Political Chapeau

Para. 15 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles should be reaffirmed and enhanced. This paragraph reads as follows:

> "In the evolution of the Information Society, particular attention must be given to the special situation of indigenous peoples, as well as to the preservation of their heritage and their cultural legacy."

The content of para. 15 should be reaffirmed in the political chapeau of the final WSIS document.

Additionally, para. 15 should be enhanced with the following wording:

> "To this end, culturally appropriate approaches have to be adopted, allowing Indigenous Peoples full and effective participation in building the Information Society on their own terms."

2. Operational Part

Chapter I

In terms of definition of appropriate mechanisms for the implementation of the Plan of Action, an inclusion of the following headings into Chapter I *(From words to actions: a Summit of sustainable solutions)* of the final document would be essential for enabling Indigenous Peoples to participate as equal partners in the evolution of the Information Society:

- A heading: **Measures to promote Cultural Diversity through the Information Society**
- with a sub-heading: **The special situation of Indigenous Peoples**

The heading on **Measures to promote Cultural Diversity through the Information Society** should outline general steps to be taken for this purpose.

For the sub-heading on **The Special Situation of Indigenous Peoples** the following paragraphs are proposed:

- Measures should be taken to ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in building the Information Society aiming to strengthen their cultures and identities
- We recognize that Indigenous Peoples have their own culturally defined approaches, protocols, proceedings and obligations regarding the sharing, dissemination and communication of traditional knowledge and of information related to their cultures

- A culturally appropriate approach has to be adopted to assist Indigenous Peoples in developing sustainable ICT solutions, including measures to bridge the digital divide
- Indigenous research projects are an important tool to promote the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the evolution of the Information Society in accordance with their cultures and philosophies
- A high-level mechanism should be established, bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous actors of the Information Society, for monitoring developments and ensuring a continuous input of Indigenous Peoples to the process of building a global Information Society

Chapter II
In the context of Chapter II *(Financial mechanisms for meeting the challenges of ICT for development)* we would like to suggest the following paragraph:
- Governments should take into consideration the special situation and needs of Indigenous Peoples