

# Media Update

7 August 2015

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## United Nations

MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

### International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

**EMBARGOED:** 9 August 2015

This year, as the United Nations commemorates its 70th anniversary, we can look back on major advances for humanity. The 2007 adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was one of many successes achieved through the fruitful partnership between indigenous peoples and United Nations Member States.

The year also marks a watershed in human development. The period of the Millennium Development Goals is drawing to a close to be succeeded by a post-2015 development agenda designed to advance inclusion and shared prosperity. This people's agenda is a concrete plan of action for ending poverty in all its dimensions, irreversibly, everywhere, and leaving no one behind.

On this International Day, we are focusing attention on the health and well-being of the world's indigenous peoples. The Declaration affirms the right to maintain indigenous health practices as well as to have access to all social and health services for the enjoyment of the highest standards of physical and mental health. We must make every effort to support indigenous peoples' rights and aspirations as affirmed in the Declaration.

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