

**10th SESSION of THE EXPERT MECHANISM ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES**

Item 9: Future work of the Expert Mechanism, including focus of next annual study

Made by: Mr. Pablo Mis – Program Coordinator for the Maya Leaders Alliance and Toledo Alcaldes Association on behalf of the Maya Q’eqchi and Mopan of southern Belize.

July 10th and 11th 2017

Thank you Mr. Chair!

1. As the Maya people of southern Belize we join the voices of our brothers and sisters in congratulating our esteemed brother Mr. Albert Barume for his re-election as Chair and we welcome the new Experts on EMRIP!
2. Mr. Chair, the Declaration has given inspiration to many indigenous peoples all over the world. The follow up studies undertaken by EMRIP has been useful in guiding Indigenous Peoples to implement the Declaration to their respective realities.
3. We recognize that it is difficult for EMRIP to get all Indigenous peoples to be represented in the studies. However, with its current studies as a testament to its good work we are confident that the seven regional members will continue to strive for reach out to their respective constituency.
4. In its expanded mandate EMRIP is being called upon to facilitate dialogue between Indigenous Peoples and States. Often, where there is no dialogue there is no political will. We point out that this will be a challenge faced by EMRIP.
5. In this spirit we recommend the following:
 - a. That the Experts give special attention to Indigenous peoples whose presence and voices have been absent at these international forums, and explore different and creative forms of data collection, not limited to online submissions.
 - b. Under the expanded mandate of EMRIP 33/25 and in strengthening its support for the implementation of the Declaration the challenge before the Mechanism is to create tools that can guide the implementation process of its recommendations. Par. 2(a), (b) EMRIP considers to include the development of tool kits. Such tools accompanying the recommendations will allow States and Indigenous Peoples to seek out ‘home grown’ efforts to implement all or parts of the recommendations. These tools will also allow States and Indigenous Peoples to continue addressing issues even if there is an impasse on dialogues between the parties.

Bantiox, thank you!