

**Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 10th Session
Item 6 – Ten years of implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights
of Indigenous Peoples: good practices and lessons learned 13th July 2017
Intervention by ESTONIA**

Ms/Mr Chair,

Estonia welcomes the discussion on the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and thanks Mr Littlechild for the moving presentation today.

Undoubtedly, the Declaration is a crucial step towards the recognition, promotion and protection of the rights and freedoms of indigenous peoples, and Estonia welcomes the renewed EMRIP mandate in this regard to further assist states in the implementation of the Declaration.

Returning to the issue of the fundamental right of indigenous peoples to participate in the decision-making in matters affecting their rights, elaborated in the UNDRIP and the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples – we regret that states have failed this commitment vis-à-vis indigenous peoples to establish ways and means to ensure this right.

In this light, we align ourselves with the EU statement under agenda item 7 and reiterate support to the participation of indigenous peoples in all UN General Assembly and relevant GA Committee meetings, as well as in the ECOSOC and the HRC.

Estonia would also like to emphasise the crucial link between the UNDRIP and the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda to enhance the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples. In this connection, Estonia, with other partners, including from the EU, plans to hold a high level event to mark the 10th anniversary of the UNDRIP on the margins of the opening of the UN GA 72nd session in New York. The event sets out to present “The Indigenous Navigator” - an enabling open source tool that can be used by indigenous peoples’ world-wide to gather data on their rights and development against an integrated and unified framework grounded in international human rights instruments such as UNDRIP and Convention No. 169 and also aligned with key targets and indicators and a cross section of SDGs of particular relevance for indigenous peoples.

Finally, as a traditional donor, Estonia emphasises the importance of adequate funds to assist in the implementation of the UNDRIP for the benefit of indigenous peoples and invites states to allocate resources to the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples.

I thank you.