

**UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 14th session,
agenda item 7b,**

**Joint statement on behalf of the Nordic countries,
delivered by Norway.**

Madame Chair,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark with Greeland, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and my own country, Norway.

We also would like to express our heartfelt condolences for the people of Nepal for the destruction following this weekend's earthquakes.

Thank you for your very useful updates on the work that you are doing. We are very pleased to have interactive dialogues with both the Special Rapporteur and the Chair of EMRIP. These mechanisms are complementary and we welcome the efforts to coordinate their activities. In our view, there is still room for enhancing the coordination among the mandates dealing with the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

First to the Special rapporteur, we are impressed by the Special Rapporteur's high level of activity, despite the limited resources allocated to her mandate. Furthermore, we are pleased to see that the Special Rapporteur carries out her work within those areas generally targeted by special procedures, such as promotion of good practices, country assessments, thematic studies and communications concerning alleged human rights violations.

A core aspect of the mandate is to examine ways and means of overcoming existing obstacles to the full and effective protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples. In her report to the General Assembly in 2014, the Special Rapporteur identified some of these obstacles. We would appreciate if the Special Rapporteur could elaborate on her efforts to tackle these

obstacles and whether there are particular challenges that could be highlighted.

The Nordic countries would also like to receive information as to how the Special Rapporteur intends to follow up the request from the Human Rights Council to promote the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other relevant international instruments. In this connection, it would be of interest to hear if there are concrete plans for promoting the ILO Convention No. 169.

Finally, we have noted with interest that one of the conclusions in the report to the General Assembly is that promotion of **good practices** is one of the targeted areas of work identified by the Special Rapporteur. We welcome this point and look forward to learning more about its follow up.

Now to EMRIP. The Outcome Document from the WCIP invited the Human Rights Council to review the mandates of its existing mechanisms, in particular the Expert mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Outcome Document further states that this review should be undertaken with a view to modifying and improving the EMRIP so that it can more effectively promote respect for the UNDRIP, including by assisting Member States to monitor, evaluate and improve the achievements of the ends of the Declaration.

The Nordic countries welcome this invitation. Although EMRIP has served as a useful forum for conducting studies and exchange of views on the rights of indigenous peoples, there is room for improvement. The aim should be to elaborate a mandate which will attract qualified members and give EMRIP the necessary tools to assist states in following up and assessing progress in implementing the UNDRIP.

Concrete measures are necessary to improve the implementation of the Declaration, for example through increased national level implementation action plans and strategies. EMRIP could assume an important role in assisting states in this regard. EMRIP could also act as a catalyst for enhanced attention to the rights, and participation of, indigenous peoples within the UN system.

We would like to hear the Chair`s view on these issues, as well as on how he sees the role of EMRIP in monitoring the implementation of the Declaration.

The Nordic countries look forward to continuing our support and cooperate with the UN mechanisms on the rights of Indigenous peoples, as well as to work with all our partners towards our common goal of advancing the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples.

Thank you.