

Speakers: Petra Laiti and Susanna Israelsson, representing every Saami youth organization at the Forum

The following questions are posed by every Saami youth organization represented at this session.

The defining characteristic of being indigenous, is the relationship and the inheritance we share with our lands. indigenous youth face a heavy task, as our choices today have long-standing effects on future generations. As young leaders and protectors, we hold the obligation and responsibility to demand for intergenerational justice. We are looking for long term solutions for our people in order to be able to continue to maintain our cultural traditions, livelihoods, language, everything.

The Saami youth have long felt frustrated about the issues raised by the distinguished chair of EMRIP - we have long felt that the prerequisites of negotiations with states are always poised against us and that FPIC is not understood on a legislative level. Development in the name of renewable energy is being pushed on Saami lands, limiting our capacity to practice our livelihoods and culture and thus, exist. As the Arctic is rapidly changing, our need for solutions grows. We would like to ask the chair of EMRIP, as to how this new mechanism that she spoke of, could be used to secure and deliver justice to future generations? How can indigenous youths be involved in the work of this new mechanism? And, since the Saami are one people living across four states, how can the mechanism be used to seek cross-border solutions?

Olu giitu, thank you very much!