



Permanent Mission of Finland
to the United Nations

Statement of Finland

The 18th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 22 April – 3 May 2019
Item 12 Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples
Nordic statement delivered by Finland on behalf of the Nordic countries
26 April 2019

Statement by

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Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations

New York, 26 April 2019

(check against delivery)

Thank you Chairperson,

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries: Denmark together with Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden and my own country Finland. We consider it imperative to continue consultations and discussions on the participation of indigenous peoples at the UN, based on negotiations and resolutions in previous years. We thank the President of the General Assembly for having organized another consultation on participation of indigenous peoples during this week and the Permanent Forum for the possibility to continue discussion today in view of the 75th session of the General Assembly.

The 39th session of the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution (HRC/RES/39/13) where it was decided to hold a half-day intersessional interactive dialogue, while inviting the President of the General Assembly to participate, on ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of Council on issues affecting them. This shall be held in 2019 in the context of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP).

The indigenous peoples should be able to take part in all Human Rights Council meetings relevant to their rights. For example, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples reports annually on her activities to the Human Rights Council, and it would be reasonable that the indigenous peoples themselves were in a position to take part in the dialogue with the Rapporteur.

The 40th session of the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on environmental human rights defenders (HRC/40/11). This resolution refers to indigenous peoples and calls for empowerment and capacity building of indigenous peoples, including their full and effective participation in decision-making processes and the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

In addition to the Human Rights Council, we urge all other relevant United Nations bodies to follow-up on the call for further efforts to facilitate participation, in accordance with their respective rules of procedure.

Greater involvement of indigenous peoples from all regions of the world, including through national and regional consultations, will be important to advance this agenda.

I would like to conclude by expressing the Nordic countries' support to the Permanent Forum, and our willingness to continue to work with indigenous peoples and human rights defenders in promoting the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Outcome Document of the World Conference.

Thank you for your attention.