

Germany



United Nations Human Rights Council

Geneva, September 20, 2011

Statement regarding the rights of indigenous people

by

H.E. Ambassador Reinhard Schweppe

**Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva**

Madame President,

Germany would like to thank Mr. James Anaya , the OHCHR and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for their reports. Their elaboration is a valuable contribution to the overall goal of the full realisation of the rights of indigenous people.

Respecting and Promoting the rights of indigenous peoples is a matter the German government takes very seriously and which it addresses through bilateral discussions with countries having indigenous populations and through Germany's development cooperation, in particular through human rights protection projects. Germany also supports the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, facilitating the participation of representatives of indigenous people's organisations in the EMRIP as well as in sessions of the Human Rights Council.

In his report, Mr. Anaya pointed out that one of the most common barriers to the enjoyment of the rights of Indigenous Peoples are threats to the traditional lands and resources of Indigenous Peoples. He also stated that Extractive Industries are one of the most significant source of abuses of the rights of Indigenous People. Since 15 years, the German Development cooperation is engaged on this issue in order to preserve natural lands and territories, for example projects in Brazil for the demarcation of protected areas of indigenous peoples in the Amazon. It is against this background that we will follow with interest the planned elaboration of a set of guidelines or principles on the operationalisation of the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the context of natural resource extraction and on the role and responsibility of the State to ensure protection of their rights by 2013.

Finally, we would like to ask the Special Rapporteur the following question:

What role can development cooperation play to support the realisation of the rights of indigenous people?

When it comes to the question of a sustainable advancement of the causes of indigenous peoples – would the Special Rapporteur see some priority measures?

Thank you, Madame President.