

CAPAJ Statement
Working group on mechanisms
17-04-07
Agenda Proposal for HRC

Mr. Facilitator :

We very much appreciate your leadership and the new version of the proposed draft, which has been generating a fruitful debate. Referring to item 3, our Indigenous commission is in favour of what has been stated by the distinguished representative from France, in support of preserving option C, under the heading “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.”

In the fourth section, “The Peoples’ Rights”, to which the delegation of Argentina also referred, they prefer to separate specific groups and individuals.

We believe it would be more beneficial to add “Fundamental Rights of Indigenous Peoples” as a separate item on the agenda, considering that this would give us a more practical way to focus the members’ attention on the topic of Indigenous peoples’ rights. For the past 25 years this topic has brought attention to conditions and realities that have given rise to new standards in human rights doctrine. As such, the topic of Indigenous peoples deserves to be incorporated in the Agenda of the Human Rights Council, during the first session and others.

Concerning item 9), which deals with follow-up on Human Rights Council decisions, we are facing the possible elimination of a section that deals with specific follow-up on the Human Rights Council decision that, in its first session Res. 2006/2, approved the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We are concerned about the implementation of this valuable instrument for Indigenous peoples. Given that the Sub-Commission Experts also approved the Declaration in 1994, and given that it a framework for human rights doctrine, these topics merit a special session dedicated to the enhancement of human rights of Indigenous peoples. In this way, option « C » would be enhanced and it would be made viable for the Human Rights Council agenda.

We also very much agree with the Norway’s proposal to bring up this item on follow-up on the Council’s decisions in order for it to be dealt with immediately after the High Commissioner of Human Rights’ annual report. All in all, more room should be given to the treatment of Indigenous Peoples’ rights during the sessions of the Human Rights Council.

Thank you, Mr. Facilitator
Tomás Alarcón
CAPAJ