

EMRIP 10th session

13.07.2017

Agenda item 8

Intersessional activities and follow-up to thematic studies and advice on the rights to cultural heritage and health

Aili Liimakka Laue

Arctic-Caucus

STATEMENT FROM THE ARCTIC CAUCUS TO THE EMRIP 10TH SESSION ITEM 8

Mr./Madam Chairperson,

I speak on behalf of the Sámi Parliament in Finland, Sweden and Norway, the Inuit Circumpolar Council and the Saami Council.

Sapmi and Inuit as Indigenous peoples should enjoy the right to self-determination, also as one people, but due to the division of national borders created by member states within our territories and lands we are divided each by four Nations. Sapmi by Russia, Finland, Sweden and Norway, and Inuit by Russia, USA, Canada and Denmark. This creates difficulties in co-operation on upholding cultural heritage as one people, since sincere co-operation needs for example travelling between the members states by the Indigenous peoples in order to find common solutions on preserving cultural heritage. This is currently challenged in the arctic, as the possibilities resource and accessibility wisely are limited for our respective organizations, representative institutions and individual members of our people in the arctic.

As example, different legal systems and societal structures are limiting the possibilities of our peoples to have common solutions how to preserve our cultural heritage

This is also the case with health care systems, for example when our peoples are entering their own relatives or entering to co-operations within our own people it is not always secured that you would be provided health care services that are low cost and ease access if necessary.

We would like to therefore **recommend** to the EMRIP to provide a study on Indigenous Peoples living in areas where they do live inside of several member stated boarders on their possibilities and challenges to jointly preserve the cultural heritage and on the challenges and possibilities on health care provided to indigenous peoples living in territories that are crossing multiple member state boarders.