

Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples
Interactive dialogue with the EMRIP

Geneva, 18 September 2012

Statement by Austria

Thank you, Madame President.

Austria would like to thank the Special Rapporteur and the representative of the expert mechanism for their presentation and their thematic reports. We welcome that this year the Special Rapporteur has put an emphasis on the thematic issue of violence against indigenous women.

Mr. Anaya,

Violence against women remains a global problem; there are far too many women suffering from violence committed against them. The scope and levels of violence are as unacceptable as is the widespread impunity for the perpetrators. In order to effectively address this issue, a holistic approach at international and regional levels, taking into account the specific needs of victims of violence is needed. The issue of violence against indigenous women perfectly illustrates the need to further address and take into account multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination as well as gender inequalities at large. This also implies further cooperation within the UN system as a whole.

For instance, the WG on discrimination against women in law and practice, established in 2010, will pay particular attention to women facing multiple, aggravated and intersecting forms of discrimination, including women with disabilities, women belonging to minorities, indigenous women or internally displaced women. In addition, UN Women has identified combating violence against women as one of its priorities and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women has also intensively worked

on the issue. In view of changing the situation on the ground, cooperation with them is highly needed. In this context, we would like to receive more information on how you are planning to involve them in your future work on this issue.

With regard to the issue of responsibility of corporations to respect human rights of indigenous peoples in relation to extractive activities, we share your assessment that this also includes indigenous consent beyond simply being an objective of consultations. Since this topic is incorporated into the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the first session of the Forum on Business and Human Rights will be held early December this year, we would highly encourage you to actively participate in this process.

I thank you.