
**United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights
of Indigenous Peoples**

15th Session Geneva, 04 - 08 July, 2022

Item 11: Enhancing the participation of Indigenous peoples' in the United Nations

INTERVENTION by the **New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council**, delivered by Anne Dennis, for the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council, Councillor for the North Western region, member of the Gamilaraay Nation.

The NSWALC of Australia pays our respects to the Ancestors, Traditional Owners and Elders of the lands from which Members are participating. We also acknowledge all Indigenous Peoples and their lands across the globe.

To enhance Indigenous peoples' participation in the United Nations and other forums addressing our human rights, the NSWALC recommends the Expert Mechanism, States and Governments to:

1. Establish ongoing identified regional focus points to ensure greater participation and decision-making.
2. Build community capacity through these regional focus points
3. Commit to the ongoing resourcing and support to implement mandated programs and recommendations made by Indigenous Human right mechanisms.
4. Invest in resourcing Indigenous communities, including technological infrastructure to ensure equitable participation in the local, state, national and international levels.
5. Support and consider the representational rights, interests and needs of all Indigenous people, including our Indigenous elders, women, youth, children, LGBTQ and persons with disabilities in accordance with Articles 21 and 22 of the Declaration throughout all of these actions.

In Australia, the challenges facing Indigenous peoples rights to participate in decision-making is continuously met inherent racism and discrimination. The Government continues to divide Aboriginal people through inefficient and ineffective policy development that doesn't take into account already existing representative structures. This creates silos and an ongoing divisive effect within communities. The NSWALC supports strategies and structures that are underpinned by inclusivity, shared decision-making and self-determination.

In Australia, to enhance the participation of Aboriginal people in the UN and other local, State and National forums, the NSWALC supports The Uluru statement from the heart which calls for an enshrined voice for constitutional reform, a Makarrata Commission (to supervise agreement and

Treaty making processes), and Truth-telling, to acknowledge the truths of historical oppressions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

In accordance with the UNDRIP, both States, and the UN, must give full effect to the rights and interests of Indigenous peoples to decision-making and self-determination.

Always was, Always will be, Aboriginal Land.

ALWAYS WAS. ALWAYS WILL BE.

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