

**Tenth session of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  
Geneva, July 11, 2017**

**Agenda item 5: Interactive dialogue with national human rights institutions,  
regional human rights institutions and similar mechanisms**

**Remarks (not verbatim) delivered by: Ghazali Ohorella**

Thank you madam Vice-Chair,

I have one comment and two questions based on today's panel discussion:

**Question 1:**

On behalf of my brother from Tuvalu, what role can National Human Rights Institutions play in relation to climate change?

**Comment:**

Madam Chair, regarding the legal nature of the UN Declaration I see there's a continuing serious disconnect between international commitments of States and the national actions, and I believe there is an opportunity for the EMRIP through its enhanced mandate, including the opportunity for country engagement, to be a platform to build the capacities of the States regarding the legal nature of the UN Declaration, perhaps with the assistance of NHRI's for a more tailored training, not a tailored interpretation of our minimum standards.

I can, and I think many of my Indigenous relatives here in the room as well talk forever and a day about the legal nature of the UN Declaration and are more than happy to assist in this, as it is also a task for Indigenous Peoples locally to educate State governments on the UN Declaration.

**Question 2:**

Finally, the panel shared achievements or resolutions of problems that have surfaced. Are there other ways to deepen the impact of NHRI's where assistance of Indigenous Peoples is desirable, to unmask problems regarding Indigenous Peoples, and make shortcomings visible.

To my knowledge, a national inquiry has been conducted in Mongolia, Malaysia and other countries on topics such as torture, and Indigenous rights. This measure is proactive and effective. Have the panelists experience with this?

We know that there's a continuing lack of resources, limiting legislation, small budgets, and non-responsive governments. The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Outcome Document is the latest tool that must be used to address amongst others the limiting legislation.

Regarding the first, enhanced knowledge on Indigenous Peoples and our rights must be ensured, and assistance from those that have the resources and a further reach should be requested. For example, existing NGO's like Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and more importantly with Indigenous organizations like the UN Declaration monitoring mechanism in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Surveys or inquires not only unmask problems but may also indicate solutions, and additionally the findings might provide data to measure progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you.