



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail UN.Geneva@dfat.gov.au

Chemin des Fins 2, Petit Saconnex, 1211 Geneva 19 Ph +41 22 799 9100 Fax +41 22 799 9175 www.geneva.mission.gov.au

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – 9th Session 11-15 July 2016

Australia Statement on Item 3: Follow up to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, including a review of the mandate of the Expert Mechanism

Australia again reiterates its support for the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

Australia is pleased to have been an active participant in discussions regarding the review of the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We remain supportive of an independent EMRIP, which undertake studies, and collects and disseminates information on best practices, on achievement of the principles of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

EMRIP's position, in complementing and not duplicating the roles of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, enables it to provide specific advice which relates directly to the principles of the Declaration.

We see it is important that there be the ability to refer issues between EMRIP and the Special Rapporteur to take advantage of specialist abilities and functions while retaining their specific roles.

As with the thematic advice, technical assistance and guidance provided by the Expert Mechanism on best practice can directly relate to specific themes or Articles of the Declaration.

Using information on best practice shared by Member States and indigenous peoples, EMRIP should support States to realise the objectives of the Declaration by analysing the information, and developing and disseminating guidance as to 'what works' and why it works. The advice developed by EMRIP will be invaluable in assisting States to realise the Declaration.

The exercise of describing an example of best practice would lead States to assess their own policies and programs, identifying strengths, weaknesses and guidance requirements, thereby having a secondary beneficial impact.

Australia also believes that indigenous groups, national human rights institutions, and other independent groups, should have the ability to undertake their own evidence based analysis and provide comment on the assessment undertaken by States.

In order to undertake this expanded mandate, we support increasing membership of the Expert Mechanism from five to seven, reflecting the seven indigenous geographic groupings.

We look forward to the final report of the Review.