

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

Agenda Item 8: Best practices and strategies for the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Presented by: Tuly Labanna Mrong

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

On behalf of my community Garo and organization Indigenous Peoples Development Services from Bangladesh, I am pleased to make this statement on agenda item 8.

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is a living document for the survival of indigenous peoples in the globe. The UNDRIP is the most advanced Declaration on indigenous peoples' rights. It recognizes the wide range of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples. Among these are the right to self-determination, collective right to the ownership, use and control of lands and natural resources.

Mr. Chairperson, the implementation of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at country level is very important and challenging. As best practice and strategy, organizing regular dialogue and consultation between States, indigenous people's organizations, UN agencies, media and other key stakeholders in promoting indigenous peoples' rights are useful. In my country Bangladesh, engaging the Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples and National Human Rights Commission can bring a positive result implementing the UNDRIP.

To fully realize the goals of the Declaration, governments need to commit and provide the foundation for partnership, mutual respect, cooperation and good faith between States and indigenous peoples.

We feel that as a strategy it is important to recognize the rights of indigenous peoples, which is developed with the effective participation of indigenous peoples based on the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

Finally, I recommend EMRIP to encourage States to promote capacity-building for indigenous peoples and to strengthen indigenous peoples' Institutions, non-governmental organizations and self-government structures. A special budget for the development of indigenous peoples is essential to attain the goals of the Declaration at country level.

I thank the UN Voluntary Fund for supporting me to attend this EMRIP session.

Thank you.