

UN Human Rights Council 39th Session
Items 3 and 5: clustered interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
19th September 2018
Intervention by ESTONIA

Mr. President,

Estonia aligns itself with the EU's statement.

Firstly, we would like to highlight the assessment of the High Commissioner in the report on the rights of indigenous peoples that the shrinking democratic space in many countries continues to be a challenge for indigenous human rights defenders, organizations and movements, including those that cooperate with the United Nations. Many countries continue to fail to meet indigenous peoples' human rights obligations and to ensure their meaningful engagement and effective participation.

We would like to thank the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, for presenting her latest report on the topic of attacks against and the criminalization of indigenous human rights defenders.

We would like to highlight the need for protection measures for indigenous peoples to be culturally appropriate, consider gender aspects and be developed jointly with the communities concerned. We would like to invite the Special-Rapporteur to elaborate on measures to mitigate effects of situations where criminalized indigenous women suffer gendered impacts.

We would also like to thank the Chairperson, Ms Erika Yamada, and other experts of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) for their work and the latest reports, including the study on a human rights-based approach to free, prior and informed consent.

We would like to ask the Special Rapporteur and the Chairperson of EMRIP to elaborate on good practices to eradicate the prevalent practice of "rubber-stamping" often used instead of seeking actual informed consent.

Finally, we thank Ms Anne Nougam and other representatives of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations for their tireless work. In order to enhance the realization of the right to participation of representatives of indigenous peoples in UN meetings on issues affecting them, we take the opportunity to call on all States to contribute to the Fund.

Thank you.