

10th Session of Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Item 9: Future Work of the Expert Mechanism, including focus of the next study
Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation
Speaker: Conduct Hang

Mr. Chairperson,

We also note one of the most pressing problems facing the planet is climate change. We believe a study on Climate Change and Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples could share the grave situation facing indigenous communities. The study could put a human face on the impacts on the fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples taking place today. We could also illustrate resilient models of rights realization, through adaptation practices developed on traditional knowledge in the seven indigenous regions of the year. We will assist in authoring the parts regarding the waves of change crashing on the shores of Pacific Islands States and lapping on our traditional lands in the Mekong Delta.

Relating to the environment and human rights, we believe there is important research and analysis that is crucial to promote and protect human rights of indigenous peoples. We believe that climate change and human rights dialogue has evolved since our initial studies and questionnaires in the UN Working Group on Indigenous Peoples in 2004.

We believe a study on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples Involvement is essential to examine the impact of climate change in homelands of indigenous peoples from the Arctic to Oceania. A series of studies and workshops should take place over multiple years that is hosted by indigenous peoples in the seven regions of the world so we can see and experience climate change firsthand.

Another recommendation focuses on human rights of indigenous peoples in the regional human rights mechanisms. A study should be conducted to review the legal cases already decided and also examination of how indigenous peoples can engage with the regional commissions and courts from the new ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights to the American and African Commissions and Courts along with the European Court of Human Rights. A workshop could bring together commissioners and indigenous peoples to discuss new developments in international human rights law.

The final recommendation is a study on the jurisprudence of the international human rights treaty bodies relating to the human rights of indigenous peoples. A workshop could also be conducted that brings together committee chairs and experts serving on the various committees along with indigenous peoples that have already engaged in the UN human rights treaty bodies.

Thank you.