



## Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

9<sup>th</sup> Session Palais des Nations, Geneva 11-15 July, 2016

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### Item 10: Proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council for its Consideration and Approval

INTERVENTION by Moonfish Productions and East Arnhem Regional Council, delivered by Ineke Wallis, representing the Yolngu Peoples of North East Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, Australia

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Thank you Mister Chairperson,

Yo manymak, markupmi Mala Duwal nuda lukama numangu.

Thank you all for this opportunity to present during this last week, and I would like to put forward the following proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council via EMRIP for consideration and approval.

- 1) **Indigenous Housing:** Today, I would like to respectfully urge EMRIP to consult with the Australian Commonwealth Government to encourage an **independent** body or entity to scrutinize previous, current and future **Australian Government budgets** in relation to **Indigenous housing**; and for that agreed body to consult with our Indigenous people's to prepare and implement a **sustainable housing plan** – as many of our people who live in a first world country, **continue** to live in third world conditions. Many of the previous housing programs delivered by our current and past Governments have failed our people due to the **top down approach** to consultation and implementation. We need to hold our Governments to account. An example in my region includes the Aboriginal communities of Yirrkala, Gunyangara, Birritjimi and Galiwin'ku, where it is common for more than twenty people

living in a single dwelling with no running water or ablutions facilities with a large proportion living in dwellings full of asbestos, and in this year of 2016, why is this still happening?

- 2) **Bilingual Education:** Today, I would like to respectfully urge EMRIP to consult with the Australian Commonwealth Government on the **protection and maintenance and development of our Bilingual education** program to be **enshrined** into our schools curriculum. At present, Bilingual is not a priority within Australian education, but there is **empirical evidence** to suggest that Bilingual education should be at the forefront of our education. The late **Dr M Yunupingu** was the main driving force in our local communities behind the development of the Bilingual curriculum.
- 3) **Networking:** Today, I would like to respectfully urge EMRIP to assist all the organisations and individual attendees here today, to continue to be able to connect and network with each other through a **common support network** that includes a **global facebook site**, or some similar mechanism, so that us as participants in the 2016 9<sup>th</sup> session, can disseminate information and **support others** from all states.
- 4) **Treaty:** Finally, today, I would like to respectfully urge EMRIP to encourage the Australian Government to **progress towards a Treaty** for our Indigenous peoples, through a **clear and transparent process and consultation mechanism**.