

**United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2016**

**Intervention – Item 9 – Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

*Thank you for chair*

(Coordination among the three United Nations Mechanisms pertaining to Indigenous Peoples)

Australia appreciates the valuable work that the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and this Permanent Forum undertake.

The work of these three entities is complementary, examining and advising Member States with the aim of improving the lives and rights of indigenous peoples.

The Special Rapporteur shines a light on potential breaches of the rights of indigenous peoples, making the community aware of situations which need to be rectified, and assisting in addressing wrongs.

Reports from the Special Rapporteur are not always comfortable for Member States, nor should they be. This is the point. The reports make Member States look at themselves through the eyes of others.

The work of the Expert Mechanism assists Member States and indigenous peoples. By undertaking studies at a multinational level it can analyse and address issues that are common in any number of Member States. By looking at a variety of situations, it can identify or develop best practice and provide information on processes and activities that can address and rectify issues.

This Permanent Forum also provides the opportunity for discussion and learning.

Australia will continue to support the work of the three Mechanisms. In this regard, we would like to hear from the experts on whether you have opinions on how your work can be best utilised by Member States?

*Rachel O'Connor  
Head of Australian Government Delegation*