

UN Human Rights Council, 33rd Session
Item5: Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples and
the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
20 September 2016
Intervention by ESTONIA

Mr. President,
Distinguished Special Rapporteur and Chairperson of EMRIP,

Estonia aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

We thank the Special Rapporteur, Ms. Victoria Tauli Corpuz for her tireless work in all the regions of the world aiming to create a more inclusive, just and equal world for the indigenous peoples. Estonia welcomes the ongoing cooperation between the Special Rapporteur, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and the EMRIP, including through thematic research to ensure complementarity. We call on all States to fully cooperate with the Special Rapporteur and to provide her with all available information upon request.

Estonia thanks the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) for their latest report, study, and summary of the survey, and thanks the chairperson, Mr Albert K. Barume for his presence and presentation today. It is important that EMRIP provide research and technical assistance regarding the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We remind that the rights recognized in the Declaration constitute “the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world” (art 43 of the Declaration).

For several years Estonia has contributed its expertise to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and has regularly provided financial support to the UN Fund for Indigenous Populations. We hereby call on States to contribute to the Fund, which continues to act as an important means to promote the rights of indigenous peoples, including within the UN system.

Next year we will celebrate 10 years from the adoption of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, yet there is still a lengthy way to go to full realization of the rights of indigenous peoples.

As laid out in Article 18 of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: “Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights...”. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a road map for development for the whole international community for the upcoming years. To fully implement it we must include all members of society and empower vulnerable groups and communities. Participation of indigenous peoples, including indigenous women, is essential in this process.

Thank you.