

Sixteenth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Item 11: Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples
(b) Ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations
Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation
Speaker: Darline Ngeth

Madame Chair,

We appreciate the conversation taking place today. The openness and opportunities shared can be a positive model to promote partnership in Kampuchea Krom.

The honesty shared by Mr. Jimenez is inspirational. To admit there was a lack of understanding of indigenous cosmovision and to admit it hasn't been easy is significant. But we are willing to speak and serve together with UN agencies, state departments and ministries as well as our indigenous peoples to participate directly.

Unfortunately, we hear something different from the state where our ancestral indigenous homelands are. Instead of aiming to discredit and disrespect us, let's start to dialogue based on the El Salvador model. The idea of a PFII in our country would be a powerful process to ensure dignity of our peoples in Kampuchea Krom.

Thank you El Salvador for providing a roadmap to realize the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Let's work together to implement the articles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Today too many of the rights enshrined in UN DRIP are being denied. Within the past month the Khmer Krom Buddhist temple has and still is facing sacred land redemption. Their inability to protect their ownership of the land has involved the Khmer Krom monks to struggle with justice. This culture of repression must be replaced with one of human rights and rule of law.

We are interested to learn more about the national council created and gain better understanding of representation of IPs, the state and UN agencies.

We also want to thank Denmark for their work in Asia to assist Bangladesh with Chittagong Hill Tracts. We wish to partner with a state to have a similar partnership to work together to achieve the Outcome Document and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We applaud the approach for El Salvador and are eager to learn and explore how we can study and support each other.

Thank you, Madame Chair