



Permanent Mission of Norway
to the United Nations

JOINT NORDIC STATEMENT

EMRIP, 9th session – Item 3 Follow-up to the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples,

EMRIP mandate 11 July 2016

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Mr/Madam Chair,

This statement is made on behalf of the following countries: Denmark with Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and my own country Norway.

The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014 marked an important milestone in the international efforts to protect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples, as laid out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other human rights instruments.

In the follow-up of the World Conference, one of the priority concerns has been to move forward on the identified need to review the mandate of this Expert Mechanism. During the last year, significant progress has been made.

With respect to the review of the mandate of EMRIP, we would like to thank the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for its work to gather a wide range of proposals, as reflected in the Report submitted to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/32/26). The report, including Annex 1, provides a good basis for identifying measures that could serve the stated objective of modifying and improving the Expert Mechanism so that it can more effectively contribute to the effective realization of the UNDRIP.

From a Nordic perspective, while arguing to maintain the current structure, we do envisage that the review process could result in:

1. An effective and efficient mechanism, with more independence and a clearly defined mandate focussed on achieving the ends of UNDRIP.
2. A mechanism with equitable representation, including with respect to regional and gender balance and with emphasis on qualifications and competence.
3. A mechanism that can be involved in the identification of technical assistance needs of Member States to monitor, evaluate and improve the implementation of these rights.
4. A mechanism that can facilitate dialogue between States and Indigenous Peoples at country level, and advice States how to follow up recommendations of the UN human rights system in the field of indigenous issues.
5. A mechanism that reports annually on the worldwide status for the achievement of the objectives of UNDRIP, for example with focus on one or more issues pertaining to the declaration and which could set out best practises and recommendations.
6. A mechanism that coordinates and interacts more effectively with the other two indigenous-specific mandates, Special Procedures and other mechanisms of the Human Rights Council and relevant UN agencies. This could include the establishment of a referral system between EMRIP and the Special Rapporteur to allow better coordination and enhance the mutually reinforcing nature of their respective areas of work.

The Nordic countries are committed to play an active role in the forthcoming discussions in the Human Rights Council, with a view to ensure timely and meaningful conclusions of this review.