

Edward T. ...

**Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee
statement on Item 7 to the 6th Session of the UN Expert
Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:
Peace and Security as the next thematic study by EMRIP**

11 July 2013

Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Chairperson, diplomatic representatives, indigenous brothers and sisters,

The Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee has discussed the opportunity for a new proposal to by EMRIP to the UN Human Rights Council on a thematic study. IPACC notes the importance of the Access to Justice study and the inherent complementarity of each of the EMRIP studies as constituting a body of advice, norms, standards and interpretation that is a valuable contribution to human dignity and the rights of indigenous peoples.

IPACC proposes that EMRIP nominate to the Human Rights Council the theme of **Peace and Security** as the next thematic study.

Before motivating for this proposal, we also wish to note that members also identified the issue of the right to food security, food sovereignty and nutrition as important to African indigenous peoples, and the need to study and reconsider the appropriateness of the current UN definition of genocide with special consideration of the experience of indigenous peoples.

IPACC notes that the theme of Peace and Security is part of the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. The UN System Task Team has released a report on this theme in May 2012. These issues are further elaborated in the UN System Task Team report to the UN General Secretary, entitled Realizing the Future We Want (June 2012).

In these reports, the UN System Task Team identify four new goals:

- (1) inclusive social development;
- (2) inclusive economic development;
- (3) environmental sustainability; and
- (4) peace and security.

The UN System Task Team notes that one of the major weaknesses of the original Millennium Development Goals was the absence of absence of goals related to peace, security, human rights and justice. The report to the General Secretary

specifically calls for attention to Peace & Security in relation to for highly vulnerable groups, including women, children, minorities and indigenous peoples (2012: 31)

The UN System Task Team report notes that:

- 1 The post-2015 agenda needs to take a comprehensive approach, guided by the Millennium Declaration, which included fundamental values (such as the freedom from fear of violence, oppression or injustice and equality) and goals on peace, security and disarmament; development and poverty eradication; human rights, democracy and good governance; and protecting the vulnerable
- 2 The post-2015 framework should include separate goals related to peace and security and a clear, concise and measurable target on violence, which can be measured through indicators on battle-related deaths and intentional homicide.

IPACC believes that these observations are pertinent to indigenous peoples in Africa and other regions of the planet. IPACC notes the repeated expressions of concern by indigenous peoples in Africa concerning the impact of conflict on indigenous peoples, violence of a collective nature against indigenous peoples, particularly against indigenous women and children, and the need for providing an accurate picture of this impediment to the enjoyment of human rights and development, but also to examine the role of indigenous peoples in promoting peace-building and stabilisation of conflict situations.

IPACC believes that the promotion of peaceful co-existence, conflict prevention, human rights promotion, equitable access to and rights in relation to natural resources and territories are all integral to indigenous values, as well as collective human aspirations, as expressed by the United Nations post-2015 goals.

IPACC makes specific note of the situation of climate instability as a source of growing threats to peace and security in Africa. This, combined with the growing gap between rich and poor, surges in ethnic and religious intolerance or conflict, and competition over natural resources, lands and territories, hemispheric inequalities, all provide for a threat to international development, equity and a culture of human rights.

RECOMMENDATIONS

IPACC believes that an EMRIP study of Peace & Security specific to the experiences and needs of indigenous peoples would include the following;

1. Document examples of successful implementation of indigenous peoples' rights and self-determination as a contributing factor in promoting peace and security;
2. Identify examples of where indigenous peoples and their institutions, cultures and customs have been effective in peace-building, resolving conflicts, and restoring situations of security and co-existence;
3. Document specific cases and extrapolate patterns concerning the

- vulnerability of indigenous peoples in conflict zones, with particular attention to the use of sexual violence against indigenous women and children;
4. Provide insights into the drivers of violence specifically focussed against indigenous peoples, including socio-economic variables, racial discrimination, and issues of rights and self-determination over resources, justice and education;
 5. A review of international and national research and action programmes in relation to addressing indigenous peoples' vulnerability in relation to human trafficking, and other forms of 'hidden' human rights abuses outside of conflict zones;
 6. Promote examples of where measures have been successful in protecting the rights of indigenous peoples, particularly women and children in cases of conflict and insecurity;
 7. Investigate the integration of indigenous peoples and indigenous peoples' institutions in national adaptation platforms, national adaptation programmes of action and national adaptation plans in the prevention of inter-communal conflict in the context of climate instability, competition over natural resources, and as a result of extreme weather events;
 8. A description of the involvement or exclusion of indigenous peoples in the process of peace-building and resolution of conflict cases at sub-regional, national or sub-regional levels;
 9. Describe and analyse the institutional coherence and integration of the United Nations' systems of early warning relating to conflicts, gross human rights violations and genocide. This should give particular attention to the relationship between HURIDOCS electronic human rights monitoring capacity, the response mechanisms of the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner, the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous Peoples, and the UN Special Advisor on the prevention of Genocide;
 10. Provide an analysis regarding the rights and participation of indigenous peoples with regards to the UN post-2015 goal on Peace and Security at multilateral, regional and national levels.