

Human Rights Council 27th Session, 17 September, 2014
Item 3&5: ID with The Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples and
Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)
Statement by ESTONIA

Mr. President,

Estonia fully endorses the statement delivered by the European Union and wishes to make some additional comments.

Estonia would like to thank the Special Rapporteur Ms. Victoria Tauli Corpuz for her first report. We are thankful that you have brought out the main obstacles on the way to achieve full realization of indigenous peoples' rights.

Despite some progress we note with regret that 7 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Indigenous Peoples' Rights we are still talking about lack of awareness and understanding about indigenous peoples' rights and that the fulfillment of these rights is still a challenge. In our view this is the Governments role to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. At the same time we acknowledge that advice and help in order to achieve better results is needed. Therefore we agree that the issue needs to be addressed in a comprehensive way at national level but also in the Human Rights Council and the OHCHR. We welcome the efforts to address the indigenous peoples' rights by other mandate holders and invite them to continue to do so. We also invite the States to raise the indigenous peoples' rights in the context of UPR.

Estonia is particularly concerned of cases where indigenous peoples' interests but also their existence is confronted with industrialization. This is especially true in the context of natural resource development, ports and harbours and in all infrastructure projects.

I would like to draw you attention to the exhibition on Finno-Ugric peoples here, in the Passerelle, organized by Estonian Mission together with Finno-Ugric society. The aim of this exhibition is to increase awareness of the existence of Finno-Ugric peoples living in the Northern part of Eurasia. One of Finno-Ugric nations - Izurians are right now facing disaster risk with regard to the establishment of Baltic Carbamide Factory to the land traditionally used by Izurians. We do hope that a mutually respectful and acceptable solution to all sides could be found.

We see the huge work field for this mandate for the coming years and wish you, Ms Tauli Corpuz, every success.

Distinguished members of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,
Estonia highly values your expertise and commitment and we are confident that EMRIP can provide high quality analysis and advice on all the proposed themes.



We deeply regret that not all EMRIP members can participate in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in New York. We hope that despite some deficiencies in the preparatory phase the Congress will still give some very beneficial results.

Thank you!