



EUROPEAN UNION
Permanent Delegation to the United Nations Office
and other international organisations in Geneva

**United Nations Human Rights Council
21th session**

**Clustered ID with SR on indigenous peoples and Expert Mechanism on
indigenous peoples**

EU intervention

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The EU would like to thank the **Special Rapporteur** for his report on the rights of indigenous peoples with a special focus on the one hand on violence against indigenous women and girls, and on the other on the rights of indigenous peoples in relation to extractive industries.

The EU remains committed to the promotion and protection of women's rights and condemns all forms of discrimination as well as violence against women and girls, including sexual violence. The EU shares the view of the Special Rapporteur that combatting violence against women and girls requires a holistic approach, which treats rights as universal, interdependent and indivisible. Such a holistic approach needs to challenge traditional social structures that perpetuate discrimination against indigenous peoples, and gender inequalities and lead to cases of human rights abuses.

The EU gives particular importance to the issue of social responsibility for private sector enterprises through the adoption of a new European Policy on corporate social responsibility. This new policy puts forward an action agenda for the period 2011-14 covering areas such as the dissemination of good practices, the improvement of self- and co-regulation processes, the improvement of company disclosure of social and

environmental information, and the integration of corporate social responsibility into education, training and research. It is aligned to the main global approaches to CSR, including the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the 10 Principles of the UN Global Compact.

The EU would like to encourage the Special Rapporteur to elaborate further on the forms and models of business practices or genuine partnership arrangements involving indigenous peoples.

The EU also welcomes the fifth session report of the **Expert Mechanism** on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on its fifth session and we thank the EMRIP members for their proposals and advice submitted to the HRC. We would like to highlight the importance of EMRIP being a forum for discussing indigenous issues and we consider their proposals to be of great value for the work of the Human Rights Council. We particularly appreciate the proposal on a future study on indigenous peoples and access to justice. Such a study could constructively make use of the input provided in this session's half-day thematic discussion on this particular topic.

We would like to wish you well with your ongoing mandates.

Thank you Madame President