

## Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum

Giitu ráhkis Ánne Nuorgam - Madame Chair

I speak on behalf of the Sámi council and the Sámi parliaments in Sweden, Norway and Finland. We will bring to your attention some recent and planned violations of the Sámi people's rights that threaten the continuation of Sámi livelihoods and culture.

The Norwegian government recently granted the permission to start a copper mine in Fálesnuorri. This mine got the permission to dump toxic mining waste in the fjord. Norway is one of only four states in the world that still allows dumping of toxic mining waste to the ocean. This would destroy the marine ecosystem of the area, and have a drastic impact on the Sámi.

Though we must combat climate change, this cannot be used as an excuse for green colonialism. Huge Sámi areas are being taken without our consent in the name of green energy. There is a massive windmill farm under construction in Fovssen, where Norway openly disregards the request from the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to stop the building on these Sámi grazing lands. This land-grabbing threatens the very continuation of Sámi livelihoods and culture.

There are similar plans in other regions, such as the enormous wind farm planned in the Rástegáissá area, which is one of the most sacred mountains in the northern parts of Sápmi.

Finland and Norway have planned an Arctic railway which would cut through North Sápmi. The railway would fragment the pastures of many Sámi reindeer herding districts. As we know from the Swedish and Norwegian side of Sápmi, a large number of reindeer are killed by train traffic. The president of the Sámi parliament of Finland, Tiina Sanila-Aikio has described the planned railway as "the end of the Sámi people" in the region. Despite strong opposition from the Sámi, the states have not withdrawn these plans.

Indigenous cultures, languages, knowledges and ways of life have deep roots to our lands, territories and resources. These cannot be separated. It is urgent that the states recognize this fundamental and important connection we as Indigenous peoples have to the land, and that they start to honor their commitments given with the ratification of the UNDRIP and ILO 169.

Olu giitu! Thank you!

Made in Chair