

**16<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous  
Issues**

**Agenda item 8: "Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations  
Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:  
measures taken to implement the declaration"**

**Delivered by:**

**Ms. Anne Karin Olli**

**State Secretary to the Minister of Local Government and  
Modernisation**

Thank you Chairperson,

It is a great privilege for me to take part in this discussion on measures taken to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Since the adoption of the Declaration ten years ago, governments and indigenous peoples have continued the work to strengthen the rights of indigenous peoples, and improving their living conditions.

The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014 was an important landmark. Its call for action has started to yield concrete results. We welcome the revised mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) agreed last year. We also welcome a strengthened mandate to

provide assistance and advice for the implementation of recommendations made at the Universal Periodic Review and by treaty bodies, on request.

At the national level, the Norwegian Government is taking steps to further strengthen the right of the Sami people to participate in decision-making processes. The Government is currently conducting consultations with Sámediggi on a draft bill regarding consultation procedures in matters that may affect the Sami people directly.

Furthermore, Norway has recently adopted new regulations relating to the protection of traditional knowledge. The regulations ensures that free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples are obtained when others access and use their traditional knowledge associated with genetic material. These regulations are a part of the national implementation of the Nagoya protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In January this year Norway, Sweden and Finland concluded the negotiations on the Nordic Sami Convention.

Representatives from the three Sami Parliaments have been members of the national delegations from their respective states and participated in the negotiations. An overall objective of the convention is that the Sami should be able to preserve, practice and develop their culture with as few barriers as possible due to national borders. The Convention will not be signed and ratified unless all three Sami Parliaments give their support to the negotiated document.

Over the last 10 years, we have taken some important steps to improve the situation of women and children affected by violence. Sámediggi and the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security have had a joint project and launched 8 March findings from a research project on violence against women in the Sami society. We want to emphasize how important it has been that Sámediggi has taken up this issue. Good cooperation between the Government and Sámediggi has been – and still is – important to have a fruitful process.

With many positive developments at the national and international level, the 10th Anniversary of the Declaration is a cause for celebration.

There are, however, also many challenges.

I would like to take this opportunity to recall the plight of indigenous peoples' human rights defenders in particular. Norway urges all states to ensure better protection of human rights defenders, both through law and in practice.

Thank you.