



EMRIP 10th session

10.7.2017

Agenda item 3

New mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Activities and methods of work

Mr. Tuomas Aslak Juuso

Vice-President

Sámi Parliament in Finland

Thank you Mr. Chair,

My name is Tuomas Aslak Juuso and i'm presenting this statement in my capacity as a vice-president of the Sámi Parliament in Finland. I bring respectful greetings and congratulate the Expert Mechanism with its 10th session, during the 10th anniversary of the UN Declaration, its new mandate, and we welcome the two additional expert members.

The Sámi Parliament of Finland is proud to have participated in the process that led to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples outcome document, and contributed to the follow-up process including the new mandate of the Expert Mechanism, we therefore take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation for our Indigenous relations, the EMRIP, its Secretariat and Member States for our joint work with the new mandate. The new mandate is another milestone in the short yet rich history of the Expert Mechanism.

On this note we are very thankful for the methods of work, which allows us to fully understand and deepen the mandate, we appreciate the EMRIP to further elaboration its methods in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples. We understand the rationality on linking the follow up work with National Human Rights Institutions but would like to highlight that in many cases NHRI's might not have the necessary resources to do that in the best possible way, we therefore encourage the EMRIP to engage into a substantive and continuing dialogue with relevant Indigenous peoples, Member States and all other stakeholders on country specific cases.

Mr Chair,

Whereas we celebrate the enhanced mandate in Geneva, we are concerned with the recent developments regarding the negotiations on Indigenous participation occurring in New York, and hope that the same spirit of cooperation that led to the World Conference outcome document and the renewed mandate will prevail.

We are committed to breathe life into the enhanced mandate by continuing to provide the Expert Mechanism with the required expert advice for the most generous and ambitious interpretation of the mandate, and encourage our Indigenous relatives to do so as well. We believe that the new elements of the mandate including country engagement are imperative for the continued promotion and protection of our rights globally, and another step into the right direction to achieve the ends of the Declaration.

Taking into account my own words on bringing life to the new mandate of the EMRIP let me announce that we in the Sámi Parliament of Finland are looking into the possibility to invite the EMRIP under its new mandate 2 c and 2 e, to look into situation of the Sámi people in Finland. This invite might include call for looking into the Sámi Parliament act itself and how it is in line with the UNDRIP itself. Another issue is to look specifically to the Deatnu/Teno river agreement case, that in our view does not uphold the standards of the UNDRIP.

Thank you Mr. Chair,