



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
to the other International Organizations
Geneva

**7th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of
Indigenous Peoples**

Geneva, 10 July 2014

**United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous
Peoples: Panel discussion on the role of parliaments in the
implementation of the Declaration**

German Statement

- Mr Chair, Germany welcomes the evolvement of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (**UNDRIP**) towards a central reference point and a key tool for safeguarding and promoting the rights of indigenous peoples.
- Human rights are a guiding principle for German development policy. This is laid down in our binding **human rights strategy** from 2011. Indigenous Peoples' Rights are explicitly integrated with reference to UNDRIP.
- In 2013, we finalised a set of binding **Guidelines**, which request all programmes and projects engaged in **official bilateral development cooperation** to appraise their human rights impacts and potential risks prior to being commissioned and to identify ways to avoid those risks and to strengthen human rights. The Guidelines consistently refer to the rights of indigenous peoples, highlighting the necessity to involve indigenous peoples in the design and implementation of development measures that affect them and to therefore ensure that their rights are respected.
- Germany has been committed to promoting indigenous peoples' rights, especially the principle of free, prior, informed consent, including in the framework of the **Forest Carbon Partnership**, hosted by the World Bank. From a human rights perspective, the recognition of the principle of free, prior, informed consent and of indigenous peoples' land rights is crucial. We support and promote indigenous peoples' participation in the design and decision making of **REDD+ strategies** and programmes and in particular in the design of benefit sharing agreements. This holds especially true in regions where indigenous peoples are marginalized.
- So far, German development policy has had a focus on Latin America where we have been engaged in bilateral as well as regional programmes for many years. Having said this, German development policy has also been working to strengthen the rights of **indigenous peoples in Africa and South and Southeast Asia**. This remains an important goal in German Development Cooperation.
- Germany undertakes to empower rights holders including indigenous peoples and to develop the capacities of civil society organisations. Germany supports measures to protect **human rights defenders** including defenders of indigenous peoples' rights.
- As indigenous peoples' rights are often affected by private business engagements, the linkage between the **UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights** and the UNDRIP is of increasing importance, in particular as it comes to implementation and monitoring activities. Germany therefore welcomes that the UN Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises devoted its first thematic report to the General Assembly to indigenous peoples' rights and included this issue on the Agenda of its last annual Forum. Germany invites the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to encourage a strengthening of this connection.
- Germany also has supported a **study** that recommends how to operationalise the *UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights* with a view to support the rights of indigenous peoples. It was undertaken by the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) in cooperation with the Institute for Ecology and action-oriented Ethnology (INFOE) and will be presented today in a lunchtime side-event organised by the European Network on Indigenous Peoples.
- Mr Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen, as pledged in its **most recent Human Rights Report**, the German government will continue to contribute to the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and to promote the realisation of the rights of indigenous peoples in its bilateral relations