



Statement by Michael McEachrane, European Network of People of African Descent (ENPAD), at the EMRIP 10th Session, UN Geneva 10th July 2017

Thank you Chairperson,

I am here as a member of the European Network of People of African Descent (ENPAD), invited by the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas. ENPAD is an umbrella organisation of 22 organisations in 9 European countries. We in ENPAD are in deep sympathy with the process of honouring the rights of indigenous people and see many commonalities and overlaps with it and the rights of people of African descent.

Please allow me on the behalf of ENPAD to recommend to the Expert Mechanism that it includes—in honouring its new mandate—researching, outlining and proposing guidelines for so called restorative or reparatory justice for historical and ongoing injustices.

This is becoming an increasingly relevant perspective on human rights. Truth Commissions are underway in Finland, Norway and Sweden for the recognition of the historical and ongoing injustices against the Sami people with the goal of achieving restorative justice. Also, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) of 15 member states has decided to jointly pursue reparatory justice from 8 European states for a history and legacy of native genocide, enslavement and systemic racial discrimination in the region. To this end CARICOM is calling for the implementation of a 10-point reparations plan, including an indigenous development program to rehabilitate the indigenous community in the Caribbean.

Among the virtues of these sort of restorative and reparatory justice approaches are their recognition of broad structural injustices, the historical roots of these injustices and the development of holistic and comprehensive measures to address them.

This is in line with the *Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People* which asserts that “indigenous people have suffered from historic injustices as a result of, inter alia, their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources...” It’s also in line with the *International Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* and the *Durban Declaration and Programme of Action*—which both call for a broad structural perspective on racial and ethnic discrimination, a recognition of historical roots such as colonialism, genocide and enslavement and the moral obligation of “these States to take appropriate and effective measures to halt and reverse the lasting consequences” of such practices (cf DDPA, article 102).

With this in mind, we in ENPAD would strongly like to recommend that the Expert Mechanism as soon as possible undertake a thematic study on restorative and reparatory justice for historical and ongoing injustices and adopt this approach to implementing the Declaration.