

Agenda item 3: Follow-up to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples including the review of the mandate of the Expert Mechanism

*Delivered by: Tracey Whare, Monitoring Mechanism  
of the Iwi Chairs Forum, Aotearoa/New Zealand*

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1. Thank you for the opportunity to address this agenda item.
2. This statement is made on behalf of the Monitoring Mechanism, a working group created by the National Iwi Chairs Forum, which is a collective of Māori tribal nations. The Monitoring Mechanism was established to promote and monitor the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Aotearoa/New Zealand.
3. We have reviewed the report of the expert workshop on the review of the EMRIP mandate and make the following observations.
4. We fully agree with the view of the Director of the Division of Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and the Rights to Development of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as set out in paragraph 8 that the full and effective participation of Indigenous peoples should continue to be one of the guiding principles of the mandate review process. To that end, we are pleased that the co-sponsors of Human Rights Council resolutions on indigenous peoples' rights, Mexico and Guatemala will be holding a number of informal consultations with indigenous peoples' representatives during the current session of EMRIP.
5. We also fully support the proposal that EMRIP facilitate dialogue between states and Indigenous peoples in order to assist with and provide advice on how the Declaration can be implemented at the country level. We see this as a positive example of how real progress could be made at the country level in relation to the realisation of indigenous peoples' rights.
6. This potential area of work for EMRIP is of particular importance to us because it provides an opportunity for us to raise issues from home that are not currently being addressed within a human rights framework. An opportunity to dialogue with EMRIP experts and the government, for our voice to be heard when we are ignored at home, where the realisation of indigenous people's rights is taken seriously and where we are afforded an opportunity to be heard is something that would greatly assist us in our work.
7. It is important to note that we would not travel the vast distance from our homeland in the South Pacific, nor spend our limited financial resources if it were possible to engage in

meaningful dialogue with our government at home. That is clearly our preference and where we would like to focus our energy. However, when that option is not available, we turn to international fora just like our ancestors before us.

8. We would therefore urge governments to be cognisant of this important priority that has emerged from ongoing deliberations on the review of the EMRIP mandate and which is reflected in the final report of the expert workshop particularly in paragraphs 36 and 53.
9. Thank you Mr/Madame Chair.