

**15th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Fifteenth session**

04–08 July 2022
Geneva, Switzerland

**Agenda Item 11: Enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the
United Nations**

Statement on behalf of Asia Indigenous Peoples' Caucus

Presented by Ke Jung

Thank you, Mr Chair/Madam Chairperson,

I would like to thank the EMRIP for the session on Enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations.

The Asia Indigenous Peoples' Caucus acknowledges the progress made by the four advisers on the enhanced participation in the UN system in line with the call of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) Outcome document 2014 and the Quito Outcome Document 2020. We also acknowledge the progress made for the enhanced participation in the UN system through the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, Permanent Forum, EMRIP, and Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Participation is a necessary and minimum requirement for Indigenous Peoples to reach out our concerns to the United Nations and member states. Indigenous Peoples' active participation would create an opportunity to understand how to overcome the historical injustices and continuing systematic marginalisation and discrimination.

The UN Secretary-General, in his report (2020 - A/75/255, para 10) to the UN General Assembly, acknowledged that Indigenous Peoples' participation in the United Nations had been a positive experience, enabling peaceful partnership with the States and the United Nations system on issues of concern. The enhancing of procedures for participation of Indigenous Peoples would further the cooperation in all relevant work of the United Nations effectively.

In the spirit of the UN Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and in accordance with the principles of the right to self-determination, we call upon the HRC and UN Expert Members:

- To continue the discussion on the enhanced participation of Indigenous Peoples and the States with transparency and equal participation to create opportunities and provide constructive recommendations on the enhanced involvement.
- In this regard, HRC should take the initiative in convening workshops open to equal and meaningful participation of the States and Indigenous Peoples, including an invitation for written submissions to identify the best possible way of enhancing Indigenous Peoples' participation in the Human Rights Council.

- It is important to note that Indigenous Peoples have their own representative institutions and cannot participate as NGOs and acquire ECOSOC status. The Human Rights Council, as the mandated human rights body of the UN, must consider according Indigenous Peoples the status of a separate entity to facilitate our effective and meaningful participation.

Finally, we call upon the Member States, particularly the Member States from Asia, Indigenous Coordinating Body, and the UN Bodies, to initiate dialogues on enhanced participation at the regional level with the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples.

I, on behalf of the Asia Caucus, express my sincere gratitude to the Expert Mechanism, Member States, Indigenous leaders, and organisations for their invaluable work and support of this process.

We, thank you, for this opportunity Mr. Chair/Madam Chairperson.

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