Mr. President,

The EU would like to thank the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples for her presentation and report. The EU appreciates an update of her work given during EMRIP’s session in July. The outcomes underline concerns about violence against indigenous human rights defenders, the impact of globalization on indigenous peoples and call for respect of the rights of indigenous peoples.

We agree that more needs to be done to prevent and eliminate multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, violations and abuses also against indigenous persons with disabilities. We wish to thank the Special Rapporteur for addressing the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities together with the Special Rapporteur on Rights of Persons with Disabilities and for bringing forward the cross-cutting discussion between disability rights and Indigenous Peoples’ rights. These insights combined with a strong gender perspective help to identify important steps in securing indigenous persons with disabilities’ right to health.
At the same time, better access to services, in particular competent healthcare systems that provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services for indigenous persons should be emphasized.

In order to address these challenges, the EU provides direct support to civil society organizations working on indigenous issues and organizes consultations on matters related to indigenous peoples and their rights. Mr. President, now turning to EMRIP, the EU also welcomes results of the 9th session of the EMRIP. We express our appreciation to EMRIP for its contribution to the discussion on rights of indigenous persons with disabilities, the right to health, the Sustainable Development Agenda as well as to how best support the realization of the UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights.

The EU acknowledges the work of the EMRIP which represents an important platform for providing the Council with relevant thematic expertise and proposals of great value for its work. The EU is engaged in the ongoing discussions on the review of EMRIP’s mandate.

We remain committed to achieving the ends of UNDRIP and the Outcome of the WCIP. Therefore the EU is further developing relevant EU policies in line with the Declaration and the outcome document.

With respect to the right to health study, we would like to ask, what are the key concerns regarding indigenous women’s health and how could indigenous women best be empowered to claim their rights in this regard?

On the review of the mandate of EMRIP, what forms of cooperation and interaction between the Expert Mechanism, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous Peoples and other special procedure mandate holders would you consider beneficial?