

United Nations  
General Assembly  
Human Rights Council  
Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  
Third Session, 12 – 16 July 2010

**Item 5: Proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council**

**Intervention by Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action (FAIRA)  
Speaker: Les Malezer**

---

FAIRA agrees with the Arctic Caucus.

**A half-day panel-discussion should be organized at the Human Rights Council in 2013, to focus upon follow-up of the study on indigenous peoples' rights to participation in decision-making.**

As the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is only an advisory body, the focus of the delegations that attend sessions of this body should be the Human Rights Council which is the UN body responsible for the promotion and protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples. We propose that all regional caucuses should discuss amongst themselves about how they are to participate in sessions of the Human Rights Council, as may be relevant, and what resolutions and decisions should be pursued by the Human Rights Council.

FAIRA's concern is that States have almost disappeared from participation in this body, potentially relegating it as a symposium of Indigenous Peoples delegations, preparing thematic discussion papers. The proposal by the Arctic Caucus at least establishes that the member States and observer States of the Human Rights Council will have a task of addressing the EMRIP advice and undertaking follow-up examinations in the Human Rights Council procedures.

Under Agenda Item 4, FAIRA addressed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples and the Program of Action.

**We proposed that existing elements in that Program of Action, pertaining to Promotion and Monitoring of the POA, be utilised to incorporate the task of implementation and follow-up of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. That is our recommendation under this agenda item.**

The General Assembly adopted the following paragraph as part of resolution 63/161 on 18 December 2008.

*The General Assembly... Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and mechanisms and other stakeholders, including indigenous organizations, to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a midterm assessment report that evaluates progress made in the achievement of the goal and objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People; - A/RES/63/161 (18 December 2008)*

This report is due after 18 September 2010. Other than that information FAIRA is unable to provide any further detail or assistance on how EMRIP might engage with the UN system to ensure the human rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples might be addressed.

ENDS