

Statement by Awa Associates Co-Director Papatuanuku Nahi

On the Draft report by the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on

Good practices and challenges in business and access to financial services by indigenous peoples in particular indigenous women and persons with disabilities

11th July 2017

- 1 We welcome the opportunity to make a contribution on this EMRIP study.
- 2 I speak from the standpoint of an indigenous women co-director of a social enterprise organisation in Aotearoa New Zealand. This submission is given in conjunction with the Māori Women's Development Incorporation CEO Teresa Tepania-Ashton.
- 3 We acknowledge also the submission on this study by the New Zealand Human Rights Commission, in particular their indigenous commissioner Karen Johansen and Kaitakawaenga Jessica Ngatai. We refer you to their submission for further information on the historical context of Māori women in social enterprise and business and the underlying indigenous values that characterise Māori approaches to this topic.
- 4 We acknowledge the support given in Aotearoa by the state for the establishment of and continued financial support of the Māori Women's Development Incorporation in particular. This has been instrumental in providing an accessible and appropriate pathway for some Māori women into social enterprise, particularly into small and medium enterprises, and in the development of their capabilities. We urge the state to provide continued support for this programme and its related initiatives.
- 5 In order to achieve equity in participation numbers, outcomes, roles and capabilities in social enterprise and business between Māori and non-Māori, we invite EMRIP to urge the state to initiate the following:
- 5a. A research agenda specifically for and by Māori women on Māori women in social enterprise and business including women with disabilities.
 - 5b. Strengthened support for and pathways into the fields of science and technology for Māori women.
 - 5c. A national action plan with regional infrastructure supports for Māori women in social enterprise and business including Māori women with disabilities.
 - 5d. Increased support of partnerships between Māori small and medium enterprises and iwi (tribal authorities), philanthropic organisations and the private sector.
 - 5e. Equity in funding of Māori and non-Māori businesses in line with the equity obligations of article three of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
 - 5f. Greater support for Māori youth (including supports within the education system) to increase youth financial knowledge and capabilities. This is particularly important given our younger demographic profile in comparison with non-Māori.
 - 5g. Increased recognition of Māori women in social enterprise and business for example the establishment of and financial support of a Māori women's social enterprise award system.
 - 5h. Support to increase the number of and capabilities of Māori women in leadership and governance positions within the social enterprise, science, technology and business sectors.
- 6 We thank you for hearing this statement today. Tēnā tātou katoa.