

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)

10th Session

Provisional Agenda Item VI: Ten years of the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: good practices and lessons learned.

Oral Statement Presented by: Yvette le Fleur, Griqua National Conference, South Africa

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

I am Yvette le Fleur and I am a youth member of the Griqua National Conference of South Africa. I am also a fellow with the United Nations' Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' Indigenous Fellow Program 2017.

Body of Statement

I note with pride that my organisation was part of the indigenous organisations that participated in the drafting of the UNDRIP. My organisation would thus like to congratulate the Human Rights Council, all member states and stakeholders involved in the Declaration's 10th anniversary.

I would like to share that in South Africa in the last 10 years, this Declaration has empowered and motivated the Khoi and San indigenous peoples, of which the Griqua people are a subgroup, in their advocacy for legislative recognition of its traditional institutions, as provided for in Section 12 the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. The Declaration was fundamental in sparking the democratic government of South Africa to commence the process of drafting legislation that would give statutory recognition to Khoi and San traditional institutions on par with those of other, already recognised black traditional institutions. This is also in accordance with the recommendation made in this regard by the former Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples, Rodolfo Stavenhagen, in 2005 upon his country visit to South Africa.

This process, however, has been slow, The Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Bill, which sets out to give this recognition, is only now before parliament as I am speaking. This after almost 20 years of advocacy by Khoi and San people.

Recommendations

Mr. Chairperson, I would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Pressure should be exercised on the South African State to speedily finalise this very prolonged process.
2. That it be ensured that that the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Bill will adhere to the standards set by the Declaration .

I thank you, as well as the OHCHR indigenous fellowship program, for affording me this opportunity to speak.