SUMMARY NOTES ON THE 15TH SESSION OF THE EXPERT MECHANISM ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

04–08 July 2022, Geneva

Preliminary notice to this Summary:

This summary is based on the notes taken during the conference and the statements collected by Docip services, available here. The discussions summarized in this document relate to all sessions open to the public. (The closed meetings, whose content is not covered in this document, were those of the mornings of: Tuesday, July 5; Wednesday, July 6 and Friday, July 8.)

This document uses abbreviations, the index of which is available in Annex I.

1. Executive Summary

This fifteenth session of the EMRIP was the sixth session to take place since the adoption of Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 33/25 which revised the EMRIP’s mandate. This new mandate provides the EMRIP Members with new capacities, including the ability to engage with the private sector, to advise States upon request on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), to engage with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the Treaty Bodies process, and to establish an enhanced cooperation with the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), to name a few. The EMRIP is composed of seven Expert Members, who represent the seven socio-cultural regions, as decided by Indigenous Peoples: Ms. Margaret Lokawua from Uganda for Africa (2024), Mr. Binota Moy Dhamai from Bangladesh for Asia (2023), Ms. Anexa Brendalee Alfred Cunningham from Nicaragua for Latin America and the Caribbean (2025), Ms. Laila Vars from Norway for the Arctic (2023), Ms. Antonina Gorbunova from the Russian Federation for Russia, Eastern Europe and Transcaucasia (2025), Ms. Sheryl Lightfoot from Canada for North America (2024) and Ms. Valmaine Toki from New Zealand for the Pacific (2025).

The session was held in a hybrid format this year and focused on the “Study on Treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, between Indigenous Peoples and States, including peace accords and reconciliation initiatives, and their constitutional recognition”. They also decided to have a thematic discussion on violence against indigenous women, as well as a discussion on enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples at the UN.

The greatest participation of indigenous representatives occurred during the discussion of the study. The participants stressed the need for Member States to recognize and respect treaties and other agreements made with Indigenous Peoples and to use the UNDRIP as a guidance tool. Several of them also stressed the importance of discussing peace accords. Another discussion that generated interest was on violence against indigenous women. It showed that the presence of extractive projects, mega projects and the military are the main reasons for this violence. All the indigenous delegates called on Member States to investigate and punish the perpetrators and fully protect the rights of indigenous women.
2. Details

Monday, 04 July

- Opening of the session, election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organisation of work

Mr. Binota Moy Dhamai, EMRIP Expert, welcomed all participants to the fifteenth session. He then invited everyone to listen to two indigenous delegates from Mexico, who performed a song that highlighted the precious relationship that Indigenous Peoples have with nature. Then an indigenous representative from the Haudenosaunee Nation offered a traditional prayer.

Mr. Federico Villegas Beltrán, President of the Human Rights Council, thanked the EMRIP for the proposal to strengthen the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the HRC. He added that the International Decade on Indigenous Languages has highlighted the urgent need to preserve, promote and revitalize their languages as they are disappearing at a high rate. Finally, he said he was looking forward to reading the EMRIP study on “Treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, including peace accords and reconciliation initiatives, and their constitutional recognition”. Ms. Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, said that Indigenous Peoples are recognized as agents of change and bearers of solutions, particularly with regard to climate change. She then said that the new theme of the EMRIP study is an important tool for the protection and promotion of the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Finally, she encouraged Member States to take into account the recommendations of the EMRIP when enacting laws and policies.

All members of the EMRIP then elected Mr. Binota Moy Dhamai as Chair, and Ms. Sheryl Lightfoot and Ms. Margaret Lokawua as Vice-Chairs, of the fifteenth session by acclamation.

Mr. Binota Moy Dhamai, Chair of the EMRIP, welcomed his new colleagues: Ms. Antonina Gorbunova, Ms. Valmaine Toki and Ms. Anexa Brendalee Alfred Cunningham. He then gave some updates on what the EMRIP had done during the last year. He explained that they had completed the new study on “Treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, including peace accords and reconciliation initiatives, and their constitutional recognition” and welcomed feedback on the draft. Finally, he stated that, in general, Indigenous Peoples have faced increasing challenges in recent years to participate in the UN system, which is why the EMRIP seeks to discuss throughout the session ways to mitigate these challenges and to continue to ensure their participation.

- Discussion on the “Study on Treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, between Indigenous Peoples and States, including peace accords and reconciliation initiatives, and their constitutional recognition”

Mr. Binota Moy Dhamai, Chair of the EMRIP, introduced the study to the participants. He explained that they had received more than 30 submissions from Indigenous Peoples, Member States, NGOs and universities. The study focuses on Article 37 of the UNDRIP as it affirms that Indigenous Peoples have the right to recognition, respect and application of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors, and that they must respect them. The study highlights the importance of mechanisms supporting the negotiation process and establishing mechanisms, including for enforcement and for resolving disputes, situations where agreements are violated.

States took the floor to express their views under this agenda item. Guatemala said that the study provides...
an important opportunity to include Indigenous Peoples in treaties, agreements and constructive agreements such as peace accords. **The Russian Federation** spoke about the paragraphs or examples mentioning the State into the report; the representative said that official information should be used, as the government does not agree with the data used in the report. **Australia** explained that a National Agreement on Closing the Gap was reached in 2020 between the Government and the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations and the Australian Local Government Association. The representative also shared the commitment to implement the 2017 “Uluru Statement from the Heart”. **The U.S.** announced that seventeen U.S. federal agencies have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to protect tribal treaty rights in their policymaking and regulatory processes. **Canada** said that Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution Act recognizes the rights of Indigenous Peoples, but improvements can be made. The representative added that the UNDRIP is essential for the implementation of new laws and policies that fully respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**The following indigenous organizations** made statements: a representative of the **Sámi Parliament in Finland** recommended that the EMRIP continue to review its draft report until next year and focus more on how the UNDRIP can function as a tool for interpreting the rights of Indigenous Peoples in relation to existing constitutional rights. **Maloca International** explained that Indigenous Peoples of Colombia want the government to respect the Peace Accords, which is why protests are taking place in the country. **IITC** said that 10 years have passed since the 3rd Seminar was organized by the OHCHR to discuss implementation of Miguel Alfonso Martinez’s UN Study on Treaties and Agreements between Indigenous Peoples and States. That is why it was recommended to the EMRIP to hold the 4th Seminar in 2023. **The Global Diplomatic Council** spoke about the situation of the Rehoboth Basters in central Namibia, who are the descendants of the Khoikhoi and San from Southern Africa and Europeans; the GDC said that the Namibian government should include them in its “White Paper”, as they should be considered as Indigenous Peoples. **IPRI** recommended that the EMRIP consider having a discussion on the subject of peace accords and that a separate study be conducted on the subject. **Congrès Mondial Amazigh** said that the Amazigh People have lost many rights over the past hundred years due to the Pan-Arabism ideology; that is why governments were asked to enter into agreements with them in order to allow them to manage their territories and develop their own parliamentary structures. **NSWALC** highlighted that the 2017 “Uluru Statement from the Heart” is a pathway for Australia to comply with Articles 3 and 32 of the UNDRIP. **L’Assemblée des Arméniens d’Arménie Occidentale** demanded the recognition of the Armenian Genocide and the compensation that the victims have not yet received. **The Quebec Native Women** explained that, in Canada, Section 35 of the Constitution Act (1982) recognizes the ancestral rights and aboriginal title of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. Yet, despite this constitutional recognition, the treaties and agreements signed are not respected, and the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples are still violated. **The Asia Indigenous Peoples Caucus** urged the EMRIP to conduct a specific study on peace agreements to understand the nature and weaknesses of these agreements in Asia, which makes them ineffective. **The Hope for Community Development** recommended that Rwanda implement programs that would improve the socio-economic rights of the Batwa People. **The Sámi Parliament in Sweden** informed the participants that the Act on Consultation has been adopted and entered into force this year, but there is a lack of funds for them to work effectively with it. **The Society for Threatened People & ICIPR** denounced the presence of gold extractive companies, which violate the rights of the Shor People. **The Haudenosaunee External Relations Committee** recommended that Canada ratify the Jay Treaty in its entirety and that the EMRIP continue to encourage colonizing States to take effective measures to implement Articles 6 and 36 of the UNDRIP. **The African Indigenous Foundation for Energy and Sustainable Development** recommended that Nigeria establish an independent commission made up of experts from local and international bodies to promote national healing and reconciliation with the Ogoni People. **The Shimin Gaikou Centre** said that Japan should recognize the Ryukyu Islands as an independent
Mr. Dario José Mejía Montalves, Chair of the Permanent Forum, recommended that a more tangible appeal be made to resident coordinators and a follow-up to treaties to which Indigenous Peoples are parties. He then proposed that the task on treaties be carried out by the Special Rapporteur in close cooperation with the existing mechanisms within the UN on Indigenous Peoples. With regard to the reference of the 2016 Peace Accords in Colombia, he also recommended more in-depth work on the ethnic chapter, since it is the first time that Indigenous Peoples have participated in such a process as third parties. He added that a specialized forum for ethnic people should be included when it comes to monitoring and follow-up.

• Discussion on the “Study on Treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, between Indigenous Peoples and States, including peace accords and reconciliation initiatives, and their constitutional recognition” (continued)

Ms. Sheryl Lightfoot, EMRIP Expert, resumed the morning session.

Several indigenous organizations took the floor to express their views under this agenda item. Red de Mujeres Indígenas Sobre Biodiversidad LAC called on Colombia to fully implement all agreements with Indigenous Peoples. The representative also recommended that there be a specific section in the study relating to the participation of indigenous women and girls in the implementation of the agreements. Tad Damixi called on the EMRIP to request from Mexico to stop the ethnocide and ecocide in the country. The Saami Council said that agreements and treaties should be interpreted in good faith and should implement the principles of the UNDRIP. The Global Home for Indigenous Peoples called on the EMRIP to urge Nepal to make public the report of the Laal Commission on the Tikapur Incident and immediately release the 8 Tharu political prisoners with respect and compensation. The Garifuna Nation shared that in Guatemala and Belize the Garifuna People are not being consulted, which is why the EMRIP was invited to visit the countries where they live. Rastriya Adiwasi Janajati Mahila Manch Nepal denounced the fact that Nepal has not fulfilled the commitments made in various national and international forums to guarantee the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the implementation of the UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169. A representative of the Bare People from the Venezuelan Amazon requested the EMRIP, in collaboration with other UN bodies, to establish more effective agreements between Member States and Indigenous Peoples that would, in the case of Venezuela, respect and guarantee the rights of indigenous human rights defenders. The BC Treaty Commission recommended that the EMRIP include in its report a best practice of effective funding mechanisms such as independent funding bodies, as Canada employed when it eliminated any outstanding loan debt associated with comprehensive claims negotiations and repaid loans that had
already been paid by self-governing indigenous nations. The Government of Accompong Maroons of Trelawny Town Cockpit Country asked Jamaica to grant self-determination to the Accompong Maroons.

Experts of the Permanent Forum took the floor. Ms. Laila Vars said that the mechanism should prepare a study on how treaties, agreements and other arrangements referred to in Article 37 are being carried out and respected. She also said that the discussion showed that it is difficult to have a comprehensive study that reflects the particularities of the different regions. Finally, she encouraged Member States to participate in the study, as very few have done so. Ms. Valmaine Toki acknowledged that there may be a second study to expand on the topic. Ms. Margaret Lokawua welcomed the comments made by the participants from Asia, especially when they said that the study needed more input. The solution, as she said, could be to have another study on peace accords. She added that the EMRIP has taken all the contributions in good faith. Ms. Sheryl Lightfoot thanked all participants. She underlined that the discussion had been productive and constructive. Revisions and suggestions will be considered. She added that the UNDRIP should guide the development, implementation and application of treaties, agreements and constructive arrangements.

- **Discussion on the “International Decade of Indigenous Languages”**

Ms. Antonina Gorbunova, EMRIP Expert, moderated the session. She explained that the EMRIP decided to concentrate the discussion on tangible actions to revive and protect indigenous languages. She added that they want to discuss the practical implementation of the Global Action Plan on regional, national, local and institutional levels. Ms. Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg, UNESCO, introduced the document entitled, “International Decade of Indigenous Languages, 2022-2032: Global Action Plan”. As she explained, the Global Action Plan establishes the terms for joint action, defines major steps, provides guidance on implementation, monitoring and governance structures, and proposes measures to be taken by UN entities, governments, Indigenous Peoples’ institutions and organizations, to achieve the main objectives of the Decade. Mr. Lounes Belkacem, former Member of the EMRIP and current member of the World Amazigh Congress (Congrès Mondial Amazigh), said that people are not sufficiently aware of the disappearance of indigenous languages, despite their being a key, along with their territory and natural resources, to their identity and collective survival. He suggested having well-known ambassadors for the promotion of indigenous languages. Finally, he added that the International Decade is an opportunity to turn the tide, but in order to do so, concrete actions are needed. Ms. Antonia Agreda, Adviser for Indigenous Affairs and Linguistic Heritage, Ministry of Culture in Colombia, spoke about the 10-year plan implemented by the Ministry of Culture to safeguard 68 indigenous languages, as most of them are facing extinction and represent loss of ancestral wisdom, biodiversity and many cultural expressions. The proposed solutions include, for example, the use of digital technologies in order to preserve, promote and revitalize them, as well as the implementation of a project of promotion within the urban context. Ms. Silje Karina Muotka, President of the Sámi Parliament in Norway, explained that the Sámi Parliaments in Norway, Sweden and Finland are working together to promote, preserve and revitalize the Sámi language using language technologies. However, she pointed out that, while the infinite opportunities of language technologies exist for some languages, indigenous languages do not have the same opportunities and conditions for keeping pace with technological developments, creating a digital divide. Thus, it would be necessary for Member States and the “big tech” industry to consult with Indigenous Peoples.

States expressed their views. Guatemala reiterated its commitment to the Global Action Plan and the International Decade. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the International Decade, especially since many indigenous languages are not used in schools or in the public sphere in the country. However, the State encouraged Indigenous Peoples to use them. Norway, on behalf of Finland, Sweden, Denmark,
Iceland and Norway expressed their support for the Global Action Plan and said that they will engage with large technological companies and representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ language users to find solutions that work for all. Bolivia expressed its concern about the disappearance of indigenous languages and also said that they have been working with FILAC and the “Instituto Iberoamericano de Lenguas Indígenas” (Ibero-American Institute of Indigenous Languages). Peru reported that 48 indigenous languages are present in the country, which is why the Government has trained translators and interpreters to preserve them. The Russian Federation explained that there are more than 150 languages in the country. The representative added that a National Action Plan has been implemented to promote indigenous languages. Canada shared that the Government is working with indigenous partners to develop a National Action Plan for the International Decade to better address the urgent need raised by Indigenous Peoples to revitalize and promote their languages. Denmark spoke about the Inuit language “Kalaallisut”, which became the official language of Greenland in 2009, and highlighted its ongoing efforts to preserve and develop the language.

Indigenous organizations also took the floor. FILAC urged Member States to join the UNESCO initiative, especially financially, as indigenous languages are disappearing at a high rate. The Global Diplomatic Council spoke about the Frisian language, which is still spoken in the Friesian region of the Netherlands and has even been one of its official languages since 1956. However, the representative asked for an equal footing with the Dutch language. Instituto de Interculturidad talked about the fact that mispronunciation and misinterpretation of native languages can also kill them, which is why it was recommended to keep them in their original form. Plateforme Nationale des Peuples Autochtones des Forêts du Cameroun “Gbaban” & REPALEAC recommended to Cameroon to include indigenous languages in the school system in order to promote, preserve and revitalize them and to work with the Bedzang group because their language has disappeared. The Norwegian Center for Human Rights proposed that countries in the Asian region include the languages of minority communities in their implementation of the Global Action Plan, as many countries do not recognize Indigenous Peoples but recognize minority nationalities. The American Indian Law Alliance called on the EMRIP to ask Canada to undo the harm it has caused by trying to erase indigenous languages through the establishment of residential schools. The representative also denounced the lack of school facilities on indigenous territories for indigenous children. Adivasi Ekta Parishad denounced the fact that the conditions of Indigenous Peoples in India have not changed since the country’s independence was established. ICC explained that for Inuit People their language is crucial to their political, economic, social, cultural and spiritual rights, which is why they must be assured of receiving essential public services in their Inuit language. AIPP urged the EMRIP, UNPFII and UNESCO to call on Member States to support linguistic documentation initiatives at the national level to identify the existence of indigenous languages, including the number of speakers, and to provide a support for digital media producers to promote, preserve and revitalize indigenous languages. NSWALC recommended that governments value and respect Aboriginal language and culture, and empower and resource Aboriginal community-controlled organizations to take full ownership of their culture and heritage, including their languages. CIMI explained that there are more than 222 native languages spoken in Brazil and that their speakers have launched various initiatives in order to promote and preserve them. However, these initiatives are being diminished by the Government’s hate speech against them. Articulación de Mujeres Indígenas de Paraguay urged the EMRIP to carry out studies, in coordination with UNESCO, on the situation of indigenous languages in danger of extinction, on their registration and on methodologies of revalorization with the participation of Indigenous Peoples. The Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake encouraged the U.S. Government to rejoin UNESCO in order to support financially the International Decade and other programs that would benefit Indigenous Peoples. Tebtebba stressed that Member States and multilateral bodies such as UNESCO need to comply with their commitments contained in the Global Action Plan. The Global Home for Indigenous Peoples recommended Member States give special attention to the Global Action Plan and create a national
policy in full collaboration with Indigenous Peoples to protect and promote indigenous languages of Nepal for future generations. Association Droit à la Différence denounced the disappearance of the Tamazigh language due to the Pan-Arabism ideology. AUKAE & CSIA-Nitassinan requested France to officially recognize the Kalin’a language.

Speakers from Academia took the floor. The Structural Analysis of Cultural Systems underlined that the International Decade can contribute to the maintenance of indigenous languages, provided that psychological and cultural factors are taken into consideration when initiatives are crafted. The University of Leuphana urged Member States to recognize indigenous languages at the constitutional level in order to promote and ensure their existence.

A statement was also made by WIPO. The representative shared WIPO’s commitment to the objectives of the International Decade and explained that WIPO has developed a wide range of resources aimed at raising awareness among Indigenous Peoples of the aspects of intellectual property to be taken into account to protect their traditional knowledge and their traditional cultural expressions.

Several Experts took the floor. Mr. Aleksei Tsykarev, UNPFII Expert, said that the discussion had reflected the interdisciplinary nature of languages and their importance for the implementation of Indigenous Peoples’ rights. He also stressed the need to create a financial mechanism for the International Decade and encouraged stakeholders to invest in it. Ms. Sheryl Lightfoot, EMRIP Expert, shared that a seminar was held in March 2020 at the University of British Columbia on the topic of repatriation, during which the participants raised the issue and the role that indigenous languages play in relation to repatriation. Ms. Laila Vars, EMRIP Expert, welcomed the initiative of the Nordic Countries. She shared her hope that they will also have a National Action Plan for the implementation of the UNDRIP. Ms. Valmaine Toki, EMRIP Expert, said that there is a need to use indigenous languages on a daily basis. Ms. Margaret Lokawua, EMRIP Expert, expressed her hope for Indigenous Peoples to really benefit from the UNESCO Global Action Plan. Mr. Binota Moy Dhamai, Chair of the EMRIP, said that, for the Global Action Plan to be implemented in future, donors, Member States, and others should provide funds. He added that it is crucial to strengthen the participation of Indigenous Peoples in all decision-making processes.

Panelists also made some comments. Mr. Lounes Belkacem said that, in societies where Indigenous Peoples are well recognized, their languages have more chance to be protected. Ms. Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg said that, if Member States or indigenous delegates have questions with regard to the Global Action Plan, they will be more than glad to answer their questions. They will also soon share information about launching the Global Action Plan.

Tuesday, 05 July

• Discussion on the “Intersessional activities and follow-up to thematic studies and advice”

Ms. Margaret Lokawua, EMRIP Expert, moderated the session. She explained that the discussion would be on the “Study on the Rights of the Indigenous Child” and the “Report on the Right to Self-Determination”.

States expressed their views. Guatemala, on behalf of Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Peru, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, the U.S., Canada and Guatemala, condemned any form of discrimination or threat against any indigenous delegates, as had happened the previous day with the Russian delegation. New Zealand stressed the importance for the State to improve the well-being of Māori children. The representative also explained that the two-step engagement process for developing an implementation plan
for the UNDRIP had been completed. **Australia** reiterated its willingness to fully implement the “Uluru Statement from the Heart”. The representative also shared the importance for Aboriginal People and Torres Strait Islanders to be involved in decision-making processes. **The Russian Federation** replied to the group of States, for which Guatemala delivered the statement, and underlined that it is crucial to know who the representatives are.

**Indigenous organizations** also took the floor. **LIENIP** said, in relation to the indigenous child, that free education should be provided to all indigenous children, including access to digital tools and proper internet connection. **PCJSS** urged the EMRIP to consider conducting a new study on Indigenous Peoples’ land issues, especially as Indigenous Peoples in CHTs in Bangladesh are being stripped of their land by the military. **The Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation** spoke about the study on the “Rights of the Indigenous Child” and explained that the Vietnamese State still does not recognize indigenous children. **Impact** shared that the post-colonial period has not been beneficial for the Maasai in Tanzania, as their lands are being grabbed. **ICIPR** condemned the intimidation of an indigenous delegate by the representative of the Russian Federation during yesterday’s session.

- **Discussion on “Country engagement”**

**Ms. Laila Vars**, **EMRIP Expert**, moderated the session. She explained that this allows the EMRIP to provide advice and facilitate dialogue at the request of Member States and Indigenous Peoples. The main objectives are, to name a few, to analyze national legislation or policies, to implement the law, and to raise awareness. **Ms. Andrea Carmen**, **President of the International Indian Treaty Council**, explained that it was during a visit to the National Museum of World Culture in Stockholm in 2003 that she discovered that the sacred Maaso Kova was there. After having researched its acquisition, she understood that the sacred object had been taken by two Danish anthropologists in 1939. Finally, she stated that the repatriation could not take place between Sweden and the Yaqui People because it had been taken from a Mexican territory, which is why the Mexican Government entered the discussion. The representative of **Sweden** explained that the Government had agreed to return more than 24 objects to the Yaqui People in Mexico, among which was the Maaso Kova. It was added that the EMRIP played a key role in the case, as it provided additional information, which expedited the process. The representative of **Mexico** highlighted the difficulty for Indigenous Peoples to accelerate such processes and to be able to discuss such issues with Member States. He also said that it gave the Government an opportunity to learn a lot. The representative of **Brazil** explained that the country visit focused on the healthcare sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. He said that the Ministry of Health has scheduled the vaccine at the district level and that more than 91% of Indigenous People have received the first dose. He added that FUNAI was responsible for preventing intruders from entering indigenous lands to prevent the spread of the disease. **M. Tuomas Aslak Juuso**, **President of the Sámi Parliament in Finland**, shared the follow-up to the 2018 country visit to Finland. The purpose was to contribute to the proposed amendments to the Sámi Parliament Act. He said that, in 2019, the HRC committee found that Finland had failed to implement the Act, but that as of 2022 the Government still has not complied with HRC’s decision. Finland finalized its proposal in 2021, but the Sámi People are still waiting to see the document. Finally, he said that CERD had concluded that Finland had violated the "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" with respect to the situation. The representative of **Finland** thanked the EMRIP for its support. She added that a new legislative proposal had been published last year, but that a political solution had not yet been found. One of the sensitive issues concerned the suggestion to draw up a new electoral role for the Sámi Parliament on the basis of new criteria.
Japan highlighted its commitment to the rights of Indigenous Peoples, which is why the Government recognized this in 2018. The representative added that Okinawans do not consider themselves indigenous.

The following indigenous organizations made statements: Aotearoa Independent Monitoring Mechanism spoke about the National Action Plan that followed the EMRIP country visit in New Zealand in 2019. It was explained that the first stage was completed, which included 75 workshops, with the aim of improving the rights of the Māori People. ACSILs denounced the pollution of land and water in the Ryukyu Islands in Japan by the American and Japanese military forces. The Asia Indigenous Peoples' Caucus called on the HRC and UN experts to conduct an Asia-specific study to identify obstacles and challenges regarding the implementation of the UNDRIP and the situation of Indigenous Peoples in Asia. Organisation de la Diaspora Touarègue en Europe & Tanat denounced the ongoing violence in the Sahel Region, where extremists are murdering families. The Saami Council denounced the increase in industrial projects in the Sámi territories, which has had an impact on their traditional way of life. For this reason, the EMRIP has been requested to assist in its next visit to Norway, in order to identify needs and provide technical advice regarding the development of national legislation and policies. The Sámi Parliament in Norway talked about the Fosen case, a large wind industrial facility developed in the Sámi territories without the FPIC of the Sámi People. Even if they took the case to court, the project is still ongoing. Save our Songlines recommended that the FPIC of Aboriginal People be guaranteed through active consultation about any new industry in Australia, as for the moment extractive industries are destroying their territories. A representative of the Pankararu Indigenous People denounced the ongoing violence against Indigenous Peoples in Brazil and asked the EMRIP to conduct a study on the subject. The United Indigenous Nations denounced the fact that the Mexican Government does not respect the FPIC of Indigenous Peoples each time a new mega project is accepted.

Mr. Francisco Calí Tzay, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, shared that he was present when the Maaso Kova was returned to the Yaqui People in Mexico. He added that this would not have been possible without the support of government intermediaries. Finally, he shared his hope that this will inspire other Member States.

• Discussion on the theme, “Violence against Indigenous Women”

Ms. Anexa Brendalee Alfred Cunningham, EMRIP Expert, moderated the session. She explained that the aim of the session was to discuss the violence faced by indigenous women and girls and the solutions that can be found in order to end it. Ms. Reem Alsalem, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, explained that she provided the HRC with her report on violence against indigenous women and girls. The report had several conclusions. The effects of the violence experienced by indigenous women and girls affect all aspects of their lives and seriously undermine their fundamental rights. For these reasons, Member States were encouraged to ensure that their national legislation on gender-based violence is applicable to indigenous women and girls and to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators, especially extractive industries. Ms. Lisa Lynn Henrito, Member of the Pemon People of Venezuela and Consultant to the Indigenous Health Department in Venezuela, suggested approaches that promote treaty implementation on indigenous women's rights. She added that CEDAW has taken note of the historical debt that Member States owe to Indigenous Peoples; thus, they have been encouraged to implement policies to protect the IPs’ rights. According to her, the root of the problem is the presence of mega projects and extractive projects on indigenous lands, such as in her own country, Venezuela.

A few States took the floor under this agenda item. Denmark, together with Greenland, spoke about the fact that Inuit women and adolescent girls had intrauterine devices administered without their consent in
the 1960s and 1970s, which the two Governments will investigate to determine whether these were human rights violations. Guatemala talked about its Institutional Strategic Plan, which has four outcomes for indigenous women and girls: 1) access to basic health, education and work; 2) political participation; 3) access to justice; and 4) prevention services, social and psychological legal care. The EU said that violence against indigenous women and girls is under-reported and that Member States should work on this to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice. Norway explained that the Sámi Parliament and the Ministry of Justice conducted a study on domestic violence in Sámi communities; this study indicated that Norway should work to promote the Sámi language in order to combat violence against Sámi women and girls. The U.S. said that the "Violence Against Women Act" had been renewed by Congress and that it would extend its protection to vulnerable groups such as Indigenous Peoples. The representative added that the "Not-invisible Act of 2019" is being implemented and that a commission will be established to deal with missing indigenous women and girls. New Zealand shared that a new national strategy to eliminate family violence and sexual violence called Te Aorerekura was launched in December 2021, with the aim of establishing a framework to eliminate domestic and sexual violence and mobilize public support and community action.

Several indigenous organizations shared their views. CONAIE denounced the violence faced by indigenous women and girls in Ecuador due to the presence of extractive industries on indigenous territories and called on the State to uphold its commitment to protect their rights. NSWALC recommended that Australia create a platform where Aboriginal women and communities can develop whole-of-government policy reforms to address the underlying causes and risk factors of violence against women and children. The Asian Indigenous Peoples Caucus urged Member States to implement the recommendations and obligations that the CEDAW committee has forwarded to each State regarding ending discrimination and violence against indigenous women and girls in all their diversities. A representative of the Bare People from the Venezuelan Amazon urged the EMRIP to develop a study on the situation of women defenders who have been victims of violence by the State and different actors with the aim of intimidating, repressing and even silencing their voice. The Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission recommended the EMRIP to urge Bangladesh to form a broad and inclusive coalition that can undertake targeted advocacy programs with stakeholders focusing on the impact of violence against women in the CHT. ICIPR recommended to the EMRIP and the HRC to take into account and investigate the incident that happened during the session, not only as a particular case of harassment against the representative, but also in general on the situation of the indigenous women of the North, Siberia and the Far East. The Crimean Tatar Youth Center called on the Russian Federation to end discrimination and violence against indigenous Crimean Tatar women and girls, as well as to end the illegal persecution of all representatives of the Indigenous Peoples on the occupied territories. L'Assemblée des Arméniens d'Arménie Occidentale denounced the violence suffered by Armenian women during the genocide, which continued during the war started by Azerbaijan. A representative of the Peul Mbororo of the Central African Republic shared the story of his niece, whose mother was murdered. He requested the EMRIP to help the families of the victims to travel to the Hague to seek for justice. The Quebec Native Women denounced the disproportionate violence faced by indigenous women and girls, which has been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic; he called on Canada to take action. The Pacific Indigenous Women's Network explained that the prevalence of violence against indigenous women and girls in the Pacific is higher than the global average. Thus, the EMRIP was invited to carry out an in-depth study and consultation with them on their experiences of violence and access to justice. Instituto de Interculturidad talked about the difference between the male and female energy and how they can balance each other. The Hope for Community Development Organization denounced the violence suffered by Batwa women and recommended that the Rwandan State set up mechanisms to facilitate the access of indigenous Batwa women to justice and capacity-building on their rights. A representative from the Anishinabek Nation denounced the violence against indigenous women due to the
petrochemical industry present on Turtle Island. The EMRIP was tasked with investigating the health impacts and advocating on their behalf to the Canadian Government. Association Espoir pour les jeunes Batwa requested that the EMRIP ask Burundi and partners to sensitize the Batwa women on their rights, and Batwa men on women’s rights and to provide access to free education for indigenous women and girls.

Mr. Francisco Calí Tzay, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, highlighted the disproportionate violence faced by indigenous women and girls, which precludes them from full enjoyment of their collective rights. He also pointed out that the main reason is the presence of extractive projects and mega projects. Finally, he said that, despite the violence, indigenous women and girls have shown numerous examples of resilience.

Mr. Dario José Mejía Montalves, Chair of the Permanent Forum, said that the violence against indigenous women and girls is a pandemic that requires an urgent response. He also applauded the report of Ms. Reem Alsalem and the work done by CEDAW. Finally, he called on UN Agencies to cooperate with Indigenous Peoples in the processes, for example, by translating the recommendations into indigenous languages.

Wednesday, 06 July

• Panel discussion on the “Impact of development projects on indigenous women”

Ms. Margaret Lokawua, Vice-Chair of the fifteenth session, introduced the session and highlighted that Articles 21 and 22 of the UNDRIP emphasize the rights of indigenous women. She also cited the numerous human rights violations of which they are victims, which has contributed to their marginalization. Ms. Tia Oros, Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples, moderated the session. Prior to it, she presented the work that her organization does with indigenous women. She denounced the dispossession of land by extractive industries, which has had a negative impact on indigenous women. They are increasingly disappearing and being murdered. However, they are organizing themselves to fight for their rights, including the right to self-determination; the example of Standing Rock was given. Ms. Sara Ragnhild Marit, Representative for the Sami Women Forum, stressed that the impacts of development projects are quite similar around the world, as they mostly lead to land loss. For the Sámi People, this has profoundly diminished their way of life as many of them are reindeer herders. She further explained that traditional knowledge is being lost due to the change in their way of life. Indeed, they must adapt to their loss of land. One solution would be for Nordic industries and countries to fully recognize their right to FPIC. Ms. Joan Carling, Indigenous Peoples’ Rights International, spoke about the human rights violations faced by indigenous conservationists, especially indigenous women, in the Cordillera region of the Philippines. She called for an end to the ongoing criminalization of indigenous women while defending their lands and resources, as it leads to a decrease in their traditional knowledge and traditional way of life. She called for respect for their rights and to consider development projects from the perspective of Indigenous Peoples, and not just from the side of the companies. Ms. Sandra Creamer, Lawyer and Professor at the University of Queensland, highlighted the impacts of mining activities on Indigenous Peoples, such as pollution of their lands, increased health problems, loss of land, etc. She also said that, in Australia, 80% of these activities take place on Aboriginal land. Their right to FPIC is not respected, which is why Australia should fully implement the UNDRIP. She added that, for most Aboriginal People, it is difficult to have access to drinking water because on their lands the water contains sulfur, nitrate and uranium. In addition to water problems, they have difficulty accessing health services. Ms. Adija Adamu, Program Coordinator at Leading from the South Program, explained that indigenous women in the African region suffer from discrimination due to the presence of development projects. She cited the case of the Bororo women in Cameroon. Intimidation and armed conflict are common, which forces these women to flee. FPIC and legal reforms for
the application of policies are crucial to improve their situation at the local, national and international levels. Ms. Rosa Marina Flores Cruz, Asamblea de Pueblos Indígenas del Istmo en Defensa de la Tierra y el Territorio, shared what is happening with Indigenous Peoples in Mexico regarding mega projects. Consultations take place, but they are not appropriate because Indigenous Peoples’ FPIC is not respected. Thus, indigenous women have decided to lead the movement against these projects. Finally, she explained that Oaxaca is the state with the largest indigenous population in Mexico, but that the situation is difficult as they have to fight drug trafficking and a high rate of femicide. Ms. Vera Kondratyeva, Chair of the Khanty Cultural Organization, talked about the Khanty People. Her organization is responsible for promoting their culture and traditional knowledge through theater and music. She further explained that industrial development projects are present on their lands, and that indigenous women are at the forefront of negotiations with these companies. They make sure to receive compensation for the latter’s presence on their territories. Many of them are also leaders for their communities.

The following States took the floor. Guatemala shared its recognition of the key role played by indigenous women, particularly in relation to traditional knowledge and food systems. Spain stated that indigenous women suffer from double discrimination because they are indigenous and because they are women, and that the State is ready to support them. Australia urged all Member States to take collective action to ensure that Indigenous Peoples are not left behind in development efforts, in order to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda. Burundi explained that an economic-social strategy should improve the standards of living of Indigenous Peoples in the country.

Indigenous organizations also took the floor. Articulación de Mujeres Indígenas de Paraguay spoke about the initiative of the Paraguayan State to analyze and take urgent and supportive measures to prevent the expulsion of indigenous communities. Unfortunately, these measures are insufficient, which is why the EMRIP was asked to request that Paraguay do better. FILAC recommended that Member States ensure that all development projects are carried out in accordance with the UNDRIP, in order to protect the rights of indigenous women. Congrès Mondial Amazigh denounced the violence against Amazigh women, and spoke of the wrongful imprisonment of the human rights defender, Ms. Kamira Nait Sid, in Algeria. Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People spoke about the environmental destruction faced by the Ogoni People in the Niger Delta in Nigeria due to the presence of oil companies and demanded compensation for the destruction they have done. PCJSS denounced the presence of development projects in the CHTs, which had a negative impact on the Jumma women. The representative asked what could be done to have development projects without harming indigenous communities. ICIPR stressed that the participants had not yet heard from the Russian region about the impact of mining companies on indigenous women and children in North Siberia. ANAPAC & LINAPYCO & PIDP recommended that the Democratic Republic of Congo ensure that logging contracts are accompanied by a guide defining the mechanisms for implementing social clauses involving indigenous women. The Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission recommended the EMRIP to urge Bangladesh to form a broad and inclusive coalition that can undertake targeted advocacy programs with stakeholders focusing on the impact of violence against women in the CHT. Plateforme Nationale des Peuples Autochtones des Forêts du Cameroun “Gbabandi” & REPALAC requested the EMRIP and the HRC to urge Cameroon to take specific measures emphasizing the protection of indigenous women within the framework of the implementation of development projects. The Quebec Native Women asked Canada to respect Indigenous Peoples’ right to consultation and participation, and that they be accounted for in all development projects. ACSILs called on Japan and the U.S. to remove the U.S. bases on the Ryukyuan Islands and demanded that their burden not be shifted to other Indigenous Peoples in the Pacific. Bangladesh Indigenous Women Network, Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Network on Climate Change and Biodiversity & Fian International denounced the violence suffered by indigenous women in Bangladesh in the name of development projects and called on the Bangladeshi State to
recognize their rights and impose restrictions on large-scale projects. **Impact** called on Member States and UN entities to listen to and trust the lead of Indigenous women on their perspectives and strategies for any development impacting their peoples, cultures, lands, and territories. **AIPP** denounced the continued militarization of indigenous territories in Asia and recommended that Member States implement and endorse, with the recognition of Indigenous Peoples, the UNDRIP and other human rights instruments in order to protect and to recognize their collective rights and their right to self-determination. **Save our Songlines** recommended that the FPIC of Aboriginal People be guaranteed through active consultation about any new industry in Australia, as for the moment extractive industries are destroying their territories. **AUKAE & CSIA-Nitassinan** says that the body of indigenous women is affected by the legal exploitation authorized by the French Government in French Guiana and asks what could be done. **The National Indigenous Women Forum Nepal & Beyond Beijing Committee Nepal & National Indigenous Women's Federation** shared that Indigenous Peoples are losing their lands and territories due to the presence of development projects; therefore, Member States were urged to respect their right to FPIC. **The Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation** denounced the strict policy imposed on rice farmers by Vietnam for the development of shrimp cultivation. Additionally, it results in water pollution from salt water, which endangers indigenous lands in the face of rising sea levels.

**Mr. Dario José Mejía Montalves, Chair of the Permanent Forum**, called on Member States and UN entities to ensure that the direction taken on energy development does not exacerbate the violence experienced by Indigenous Peoples.

**Panelists** shared their closing remarks. **Ms. Tia Oros** called on Member States to recognize and strengthen women’s right to self-determination. **Ms. Joan Carling** pointed out that if the rights of indigenous women are not respected, it will be difficult for them to participate in development. She also reminded Member States to protect and respect the rights of indigenous women under the UNDRIP. **Ms. Sandra Creamer** stated that States should provide updates to the EMRIP on updates and amendments to laws and policies protecting the rights of indigenous women in their countries. **Ms. Sara Ragnhild Marit** pointed out that many problems are linked to the lack of indigenous land rights. **Ms. Adija Adamu** recommended that the EMRIP continue to address the issue of women’s right to development in African States. **Ms. Rosa Marina Flores Cruz** called for an end to the criminalization of those who defend their land. **Ms. Vera Kondratyeva** stressed that indigenous women must be given the opportunity to enjoy the rights to maternity, education and health care.

- **Discussion on “Enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations”**

**Ms. Sheryl Lightfoot**, **EMRIP Expert**, moderated the session. She said that the UNDRIP is a great tool to learn how to assure the participation of Indigenous Peoples. The EMRIP proposed to the HRC to establish an experts workshop with the aim of proposing recommendations on possible ways to ensure the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the HRC. **Mr. Federico Villegas**, **President of the HRC**, stressed the importance of ensuring the full participation of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations processes affecting them. **Mr. Kenneth Deer**, **Member of the Indigenous Coordinating Body on Enhanced Participation of Indigenous Peoples’ representative institutions**, explained the beginning of the process to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the UN, speaking of Chief Deskaheh. He stressed the need for Indigenous Peoples’ organizations not to be considered as NGOs because they are not. Furthermore, he added that a workshop will be held from November 21 to 24, 2022 to discuss the topic. **H.E. Kirsti Kauppi, Finland**, explained that they had consulted with indigenous delegates to discuss improving their participation, but noted that there were still issues. For this reason the workshop presented by Mr. Deer is well received by Finland. The representative also stressed the importance of welcoming everyone, including LGBTQI+ members and
minorities. H.E. Karla Maria Rodríguez Mancia, Representative of Guatemala, said that HRC resolution 48/11, submitted by Mexico and Guatemala in October 2021, motivates the search for mechanisms to improve the representation of Indigenous Peoples in policies that directly affect them. She added that she hopes the expert workshop in November will lead to concrete actions. She added that the UN Voluntary Fund should support more indigenous delegates.

States took the floor to express their views under this agenda item. Denmark shared its hope for the full enhancement of the participation of Indigenous Peoples in UN processes. The representative of the Russian Federation said that some Member States do not recognize Indigenous Peoples; therefore, he asked how the HRC would deal with this issue. The EU stressed the need to continue to have the discussion until the full enhancement of their participation. Australia reiterated its support for strengthening the participation of Indigenous Peoples at the UN and explained that the State will appoint an ambassador for First Nations Peoples to deepen its support for Indigenous Peoples. Canada reiterated its wish that Indigenous Peoples have a special status that would allow them to participate in the HRC.

Indigenous organizations also took the floor. ACSILs denounced the fact that Japan does not recognize the Ryukyuans as an Indigenous People, in the name of its alliance with the U.S. military. The Indigenous Coordinating Body on Enhanced Participation explained that the body was created with 7 indigenous representatives to ensure the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the UN and to lobby Member States. The representative encouraged Indigenous Peoples and Member States to participate in the expert workshop in November 2022. The Voluntary Fund was also asked to fund at least 4 indigenous delegates from each region to participate in the workshop. The Asia Indigenous Peoples Caucus called on the HRC and UN Expert Members to continue the discussion on the enhanced participation of Indigenous Peoples and called on Member States to create opportunities and provide constructive recommendations on the enhanced involvement. The Alifuru Council requested that the HRC: establish the negotiation process before the HRC September session of 2023; appoint co-facilitators, one nominated by Member States and one nominated by Indigenous Peoples; and request the UN Voluntary Fund to fund at least 4 indigenous representatives per region in the workshop. The Kawaiisu Tribe of Tejon stressed the importance of having proper representation for Indigenous Peoples at the UN in other to negotiate properly with Member States. The Sámi Parliaments in Finland, Norway, Sweden and the Saami Council and ICC stressed that HRC resolution 71/321 recognizes the need for Indigenous Peoples’ participation in discussions that concern them. The representative also explained that they align with the statement of the Indigenous Coordinating Body on Enhanced Participation.

Mr. Francisco Cali Tzay, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, said that he has witnessed how many indigenous delegates have no idea how to participate in UN processes; for this reason he offered to have training on the subject. He also encouraged the Voluntary Fund to have delegates from around the world. He added that it was crucial to encourage the participation of indigenous delegates in all meetings that might be important to them. Mr. Dario José Mejía Montalves, Chair of the Permanent Forum, stressed the need to follow the workshop to be held in the fall. He also said that the Forum will closely follow the outcomes of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. Mr. Devi Kumar, Board Member of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, summarized the activities of the Fund.

The panelist Mr. Kenneth Deer made closing remarks. He said that when you are born indigenous you are born political because the colonizers did everything they could to eliminate them. He added that Indigenous Peoples must be the voice of the natural world. Finally, he said that Member States should not say that they speak on behalf of Indigenous Peoples and that it is a democratic process for them to speak for themselves.
Thursday, 07 July

- **Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Chair of the UNPFII, the Board of Trustees of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, and members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Human Rights Committee on the UNDRIP implementation**

Ms. Anexa Brendalee Alfred Cunningham, Member of the EMRIP, moderated and introduced the session. Mr. Francisco Cali Tzay, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, said that the topic of violence against indigenous women is a very important one, as they are those who suffer the most discrimination. He further stressed their role played in the conservation of indigenous traditional knowledge, such as traditional medicine. Moreover, he spoke about the crucial role that Indigenous Peoples play in the protection of biodiversity, especially as they live on more than 20% of the protected areas.

Mr. Dario José Mejía Montalves, Chair of the Permanent Forum, focused on strengthening the role of the Forum through the full implementation of the UNDRIP. He said that he is in favor of a resident coordinator who would make it possible to have better information on the needs of Indigenous Peoples of each region. He also said that the Forum wants Indigenous Peoples to be included in all decision-making processes. Finally, he gave an overview of the study on which the Forum is working, which concerns the planet’s biodiversity. The study showed that the health of the planet is profoundly impacted by business and therefore by money. The second study focuses on health in general, not just as it relates to the pandemic.

Mr. Dev Kumar Sunuwar, Member of the Board of Trustees of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, briefed the Forum on the Fund’s activities. He added that the Fund’s beneficiaries are in a better position to denounce the human rights violations going on in their countries, which is why he encouraged the participants to look at the Fund. Finally, he thanked the Member States that contributed financially over the last three years and asked for the other Member States to do so as well.

Ms. Rhoda Reddock, Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, explained that several events and workshops were held in 2021 and 2022 to advance the rights of indigenous women. These events showed that they have been deeply affected by the activities of the extractive industries, as it has increased violence against them. Ms. Hélène Tigroudja, Human Rights Committee, talked about the "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights". Although the treaty is universal and therefore does not specifically mention Indigenous Peoples, articles can be used to defend their rights with the support of the UNDRIP. She then mentioned that the Committee had several dialogues with Member States to discuss the rights of indigenous women, for example, with regard to the sexual violence they have suffered during armed conflicts.

A few States took the floor. Canada shared that the “2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples National Action Plan” was launched in order to put an end to gender based violence. The Russian Federation asked the Human Rights Committee if they advise rejecting the rules of procedure.

Several indigenous organizations shared their views. Articulación de Mujeres Indígenas de Paraguay denounced the difficulty of accessing drinking water in the Chaka region and the ongoing violence against indigenous women that defend their environment. Maloca International denounced the murder of the Wayuu People in the Guajira region of Colombia in the name of coal, which is why the Government and all investors were urged to stop it. Images for Inclusion urged the Chilean State to put an end to the ongoing stigma and discrimination that Mapuche women, girls and LGBTQI+ suffer from. AUKAE & CSIA-Nitassinan denounced the presence of illegal miners in the indigenous territories of French Guiana, whose activities endanger the health of indigenous women who live nearby. Red de Mujeres Indígenas Sobre Biodiversidad...
LAC stressed the need to continue to promote the UNDRIP and encouraged its implementation. The Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples welcomed the adoption of the “An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” in 2021 by Canada, as it brings them closer to ensuring their rights. The Sámi Parliament in Sweden denounced the fact that Sweden gave permission in March 2022 for the opening of a mine in Gállok as it will have a profound impact on reindeer herders. CIMI denounced the ongoing killings in Brazil’s indigenous territories by illegal miners. LIENIP requested the EMRIP to investigate the case of harassment that occurred during the UN Voluntary Fund’s training in 2019 on a Shor delegate, who was accused of not being truly indigenous. The Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People requested the EMRIP to advocate with States and donors to support indigenous women’s groups and networks to build their capacities in a wide range of domains and to explore ways of supporting Indigenous Peoples’ rights in the context of war, military occupation and armed conflicts. The Pacific Indigenous Women’s Network requested the EMRIP to conduct a study on the impacts of militarization on Indigenous Peoples, including those related to health problems.

The University of Leuphana stressed the importance of ending the human rights violations suffered by indigenous women.

Several Experts of the EMRIP shared their comments. Ms. Sherly Lightfoot shared that she is glad to see that the UNDRIP is increasingly being used by Treaty Bodies in their work. She also noted that the challenge is to make global progress in the fight against climate change and the conservation of lands and territories while respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Mr. Binota Moy Dhamai asked the Treaty Bodies about what could be done to strengthen Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determination. Ms. Margaret Lokawua asked the Treaty Bodies about what could be done to support Indigenous Peoples in their role as custodians of biodiversity.

The panelists gave concluding remarks. Mr. Francisco Calí Tzay talked about the UNDRIP and explained that some Member States had voted against it. However, the document did not create new rights, but rather, guaranteed the fundamental rights of Indigenous Peoples. He also encouraged Member States to accept his country visits, as his role as Special Rapporteur is not to criticize but to advise. Mr. Dario José Mejía Montalves said that Member States can make progress on institutional and legal frameworks in favor of Indigenous Peoples and on ratifying instruments. He also highlighted the need to fund the collection of disaggregated data. Finally, he stressed the central role that indigenous women have and encouraged all to improve the status of their rights. Mr. Dev Kumar Sunuwar said that the UN Voluntary Fund was unable to financially support indigenous delegates in 2020-2021, but must now continue its activities. Ms. Hélène Tigroudja stressed that it is not sufficient for Member States to ratify treaties; they also need to implement them. Lastly, she discussed the need to use all the resources possible in order to help Indigenous Peoples’ cases.

• Discussion on the “Future work of the Expert Mechanism, including focus of future thematic studies”

Ms. Valmaine Toki, EMRIP Expert, moderated the session. She said that the 2023 thematic study will be on the theme of militarization of indigenous lands with a human rights focus.

The Russian Federation suggested to the EMRIP to conduct a study on the issue of genocide of Indigenous Peoples.

Several indigenous organizations took the floor to express their views under this agenda item. The Hawaii 16/21
Institute for Human Rights advised the EMRIP to conduct a thematic study on the relationship that Indigenous Peoples have with water. NSWALC recommended the EMRIP and States to study the short-and long-term impacts of the States’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic on indigenous communities and the lack of adequate culture and heritage laws that preserve, protect and restore sacred sites from natural disasters. IPRI suggested once again the EMRIP conduct a study on peace agreements relating to conflicts affecting Indigenous Peoples, and they also suggested that the EMRIP should play a role in monitoring the evolution of issues relating to the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the overall work of the HRC. Asociación de Desarrollo Integral Indígena de Cabagra proposed for future studies themes such as the control of the conventionality of ILO Convention 169 and the UNDRIP in state judicial systems, and in particular in criminal law and the intersectionality of human rights that integrates plans and policies for Indigenous Peoples with disabilities and indigenous children. The New Zealand Human Rights Commission requested that the EMRIP consider undertaking a thematic study on the role of constitutional transformation to give effect to the rights set out in the UNDRIP, in particular Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determination. A representative of the Kawaiisu Tribe of Tejon stressed the importance of having proper representation for Indigenous Peoples at the UN in order to negotiate properly with Member States. Conseil des Peuples Autochtones du Vietnam d’aujourd’hui urged Vietnam to recognize its Indigenous Peoples and thus their rights. TUCAYTA said that there is an urgent need for Indigenous Peoples in Ecuador to have a discussion with young people in order to stop their migration, which, if it continues, will result in their traditional knowledge being lost. AIPP & the Sámi Parliament called on the EMRIP, the Permanent Forum, the Special Rapporteur and the HRC, to convene a series of regional and global technical seminars and consultations with States and Indigenous Peoples with the aim of developing a set of UN Guiding Principles on Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples based on the UNDRIP. Asian Indigenous Peoples Caucus suggested that the EMRIP conduct a study on the accord and agreements between Indigenous Peoples and States in Asia and to conduct a study on militarization in Asia. L’Assemblée des Arméniens d’Arménie Occidentale urged Member States to uphold the commitments they make with Indigenous Peoples in order to achieve reconciliation. A representative of the Kokonuko People of Colombia proposed to have a study on the challenges faced by indigenous youth to access platforms and information technologies. CISA said that there is an urgent need to have an international instrument that saves Indigenous Peoples that are victims of human rights violations. The Minority Rights Group International denounced the expulsion of the Batwa People in the Democratic Republic of Congo in the name of logging projects; the group urged the EMRIP to take action. The International Yazidis Foundation for the Prevention of Genocide talked about the indigenous status of Kurdish People in Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey, stating that they should also be protected by the UNDRIP. ICIPR requested the EMRIP to include the theme of the influence of war on the Indigenous Peoples of Ukraine and of the Russian Federation in its future studies. The Crimean Tatar Youth Center proposed a survey on the issue of ensuring the implementation of the UNDRIP in the context of armed conflict, as well as developing effective mechanisms for the protection of Indigenous Peoples in the context of inter-State conflict. The Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation asked the EMRIP to conduct a study on the situation of Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation. Land is life spoke about the importance of raising awareness of the vulnerability of Indigenous Peoples who live in isolation.
Several Experts of the EMRIP took the floor. Ms. Margaret Lokawua thanked all participants for their suggestions and said that two of the proposed themes caught her attention, which were to have a study on water and to have a study on the issue of militarization on indigenous lands. Mr. Binota Moy Dhamai shared his thoughts on the proposal for the UN Summit of the Future and said that it was a good idea to be ready to participate whether or not they were actually invited by Member States to contribute. Ms. Sheryl Lightfoot said that all the themes of the studies are connected to one another; for example, self-determination is connected to traditional knowledge.

- Proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council for its consideration and approval

Ms. Laila Vars explained that the session will involve proposals for the EMRIP to submit to the HRC. She added that the EMRIP studies do not focus specifically on one country, but are more general. However, if indigenous delegates want to focus on one country, they can request a country engagement from the EMRIP.

The Russian Federation asked the HRC to lift the suspension against the State.

A few indigenous organizations made proposals to the HRC. Confederación Bolivariana Indígena requested the EMRIP to recommended to the HRC to extend the mandate of the UN Human Rights Office and the mission of Venezuela to enable them to continue to report and denounced the human rights violations against Indigenous Peoples. Assemblée des Arméniens d’Arménie Occidentale suggested to the HRC to allow Indigenous Peoples to meet every six months rather than every year. Association pour la Promotion du Droit à la Différence Tunisie recommended to the HRC to develop inclusive textbooks and to build the capacity of the media to dedicate spaces related to Indigenous Peoples and their respective languages. The African Indigenous Foundation for Energy and Sustainable Development stressed the importance of enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples in all meetings and urged Member States to develop National Action Plans in order to implement the UNDRIP. Maloca International requested that Colombia and other States in Latin America fully implement human rights. The Government of Accompong Maroons of Trelawny Town Cockpit Country asked the HRC to remind Jamaica of its commitments to the Maroon People. CIMI suggested having a study on isolated Indigenous Peoples in order to deal with the human rights violations they suffer. Congrès Mondial Amazigh said that Member States should encourage the visits of the EMRIP rather than trying to avoid them.

The University of Leuphana suggested studying the practice and causes of modern slavery of indigenous populations, especially in the field of extractive industries.

Several Experts of the EMRIP shared their thoughts. Ms. Sheryl Lightfoot shared that she is pleased to see that, in a number of cases, there are significant developments towards establishing National Action Plans to implement the UNDRIP. She also pointed out that the work of the EMRIP is enhanced when more Member States and Indigenous Peoples take part in the discussion and contribute to the studies. Ms. Valmaine Toki reiterated observations on the issue of militarization and peace accords. She added that there is a need to address the rights of Indigenous Peoples who are in non-self-governing territories. Mr. Binota Moy Dhamai explained that, as already mentioned, there will be a study on militarization. He also thanked all the speakers who suggested thematic studies, as these themes urgently need to be addressed. Ms. Margaret Lokawua said that the core of the EMRIP’s mandate is to conduct studies and make country visits, but the topics for studies should come from indigenous delegates rather than Member States.
**Closing of the session**

Mr. Binota Moy Dhamai, Chair of the EMRIP, welcomed all the participants at the closing of the fifteenth session. He read the proposals of the EMRIP, which will be submitted to the HRC. Then, he gave the floor to his colleagues. Ms. Antonina Gorbunova thanked all the participants for their contribution during the session. She also thanked Ms. Laila Vars for her work as it is her last session. Ms. Laila Vars took the floor to review what the EMRIP has done over the years; she particularly highlighted the improvements in terms of country engagement. She also thanked everyone she has met over her years with the EMRIP. Ms. Sheryl Lightfoot thanked Ms. Laila Vars for her work. She also thanked Mr. Paulo David, Chief of the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section at OHCHR, who is retiring this year. Ms. Margaret Lokawua also thanked Ms. Laila Vars and Mr. Paulo David for their work. Ms. Anexa Brendalee Alfred Cunningham thanked all the participants in the session, as well as Ms. Laila Vars and Mr. Paulo David for their work. Ms. Valmaine Toki, like her previous colleagues, thanked the participants, Ms. Laila Vars and Mr. Paulo David. Mr. Binota Moy Dhamai took the floor and did the same.

A representative of the Shor People closed the session by playing traditional music.
### ANNEX I – LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACSILs</td>
<td>The Association of Comprehensive Studies for Independence of the Lew Chewans</td>
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<td>AIPP</td>
<td>Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANAPAC</td>
<td>Alliance Nationale d’Appui et de Promotion des Aires et territoires du Patrimoine autochtone et Communautaire (National Alliance for the Support and Promotion of Indigenous and Community Heritage Areas and Territories)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CERD</td>
<td>Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIMI</td>
<td>Conselho Indigenista Missionário (Indigenous Missionary Council)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CISA</td>
<td>Consejo Indio de Sud América</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONAIE</td>
<td>Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas del Ecuador (Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSIA-Nitassinan</td>
<td>Comité de Solidarité avec les Indiens des Amériques (Committee of Solidarity with the Indians of the Americas)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECMIA</td>
<td>Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas (Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMRIP</td>
<td>Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUNAI</td>
<td>Fundação Nacional do Índio (National Indian Fund)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FILAC</td>
<td>Fondo para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas de América Latina y el Caribe (Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPIC</td>
<td>Free, Prior and Informed Consent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRC</td>
<td>Human Rights Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IICPR</td>
<td>International Committee of Indigenous Peoples of Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IITC</td>
<td>International Indian Treaty Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPRI</td>
<td>Indigenous Peoples Rights International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIENIP</td>
<td>L’auravetli’an Information and Education Network of Indigenous Peoples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINAPYCO</td>
<td>Ligue Nationale des Associations Autochtones Pygmées du Congo (National League of Indigenous Pygmy Associations of Congo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSWALC</td>
<td>New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCJSS</td>
<td>Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIDP</td>
<td>Programme Intégré pour le Développement du Peuple Pygmée (Integrated Program for the Development of the Pygmy People)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REPALEAC</td>
<td>Réseau des Populations Autochtones et Locales pour la Gestion des Ecosystèmes Forestiers d’Afrique Centrale (Network of Indigenous and Local Communities for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDRIP</td>
<td>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIPO</td>
<td>World Intellectual Property Organization</td>
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