



EUROPEAN UNION  
Permanent Delegation to the United Nations Office  
and other international organisations in Geneva

**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**  
**15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP),**  
**July 4 – July 8, 2022**

**Item 11: Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples' in the United Nations**

Mme. Chair,

The EU thanks EMRIP for facilitating a discussion on enhanced participation of indigenous peoples' in meetings relevant to them. The fact that we have been discussing this topic ever since the World Conference in 2014 – and without much progress - underlines that we must continue to promote this discussion, and that we must all do more in order to ensure advances.

At the outset of the discussion of participation, the EU wishes to underscore that we strongly condemn any acts of reprisals against civil society actors, including those participating at meetings at the UN. This is unfortunately necessary to reiterate in light of the behaviour that was displayed by a representative of the Russian Federation towards an indigenous woman in this very room on Monday. We wish to underline that indigenous peoples as well as other civil society actors should be able to participate in meetings of the UN without any fear of reprisals.

The EU supports that indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions take part in relevant meetings of the Human Rights Council, and the Council has already taken important steps in this direction, including through interactive dialogues and intersessionals on the matter. However, there are still complex questions to be discussed further in order to ensure actual progress, for instance which status indigenous peoples will be given in the meetings, as well as which

criteria will be applied when selecting the representatives participating on behalf of indigenous peoples.

We therefore welcome and look forward to the four-day workshop taking place in October, as decided in resolution 48/11. We trust that the workshop can facilitate the much needed space for indigenous peoples, States and other relevant actors to have in-depth and practical discussions on how to enhance indigenous peoples' participation in the Human Rights Council.

Our hope is that when we meet at next year's EMRIP, we will be able to answer the questions on exactly how indigenous peoples shall be included in the Council's work so that we can finally move from words to action.

Thank you.