

**Human Rights Council
Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

Fourth session, 11-15 July 2011

**Agenda item 6: Proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council for its
consideration and approval**

Statement by the Arctic Caucus

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

The Arctic Caucus is appreciative towards the states that during Agenda Item 3 reported on their use of the Expert Mechanism's Study and Expert Advice No. 1 on education. Like the Expert Members, we encourage states to continue and increase this practice at future EMRIP sessions. Still, the Arctic Caucus believes that for EMRIP's Expert Advices to be widely and effectively used, and gain weight, it is necessary that the Expert Advices are picked up and utilized by UN bodies and institutions that can have a direct and effective impact on a national level such as the UPR mechanism, treaty bodies and the Special Rapporteurs. We therefore note with satisfaction that there are already some examples of treaty bodies utilizing Expert Advice No. 1. Still, increased such use would be most welcomed. Hence, the Arctic Caucus encourages EMRIP to take creative steps to promote the consideration of its Expert Advices by the mentioned bodies and institutions, and thus recommends EMRIP to;

Propose to the Human Rights Council to promote the increased utilization of the Expert Mechanism's Expert Advices, including its Expert Advice No. 2, by UN treaty bodies, the Universal Periodic Review, the UN Special Rapporteurs and other relevant bodies and institutions.

Mr. Chairperson,

In addition, the Arctic Caucus just briefly want to remind the Expert Members of our suggested proposals for recommendations to be submitted to the Human Rights Council presented in our previous intervention, namely:

- that the Human Rights Council calls on states to host regional meetings in preparation for the World Conference;

- that the Human Rights Council welcomes the indigenous preparatory conference for the World Conference in 2013, and calls on the UN General Assembly and states to ensure that the outcome of the indigenous peoples' preparatory process is integrated into the outcome of the World Conference;

- that the Human Rights Council adopts a decision in line with EMRIP's Expert Advice No. 2, paragraph 35;

- that the Human Rights Council reviews the UPR mechanism to ensure a more effective examination of the situation for indigenous peoples;

and,

- that EMRIP communicate and share knowledge and good practices with the new Working Group on human rights and businesses.

Finally, please recall our proposal that rather than embarking on a completely new study, EMRIP should continue its efforts to study indigenous peoples and decision-making, with a focus on the right to self-determination and free, prior and informed consent, with particular attention being paid to resource extraction.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.