



EUROPEAN UNION

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

HRC 18 - Clustered ID – 20 September 2011

European Union Intervention

Clustered ID

with SR on indigenous peoples and Expert Mechanism on indigenous peoples

On behalf of the EU I would like to express our compliments to Mr James Anaya, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and to the members of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and thank them for their presentations and for their continued work on the indigenous issues.

The EU is committed to promoting the rights of indigenous peoples as set out in UN DRIP and continues to support them through financial, technical or legal tools in order to build their capacity and ensure effective development.

Mr Special Rapporteur, we welcome your report and recognize the attention you have given to the potential adverse impact and benefits of extractive industries operating within or near indigenous territories. We welcome your suggestion to establish a common understanding among indigenous peoples, governmental actors, business enterprises and others as a way forward in addressing the lack of understanding about the arrangements required to harmonize the various interests involved in the context of extractive industries. We would like to encourage you to further elaborate on this and present some recent examples on how to best find an agreeable solution for all actors involved.

We also welcome the report of the **Expert Mechanism** on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on its fourth session and we thank the EMRIP members for their proposals and advice submitted to the HRC. We recognize EMRIP as an important forum for discussing indigenous issues and consider their proposals to HRC to be of utmost importance. We note the introduction of the new agenda item to be considered at the fifth session of Expert Mechanism, namely the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014. In this context we would like to ask EMRIP members for their opinion on how they envisage the preparatory work for the conference and how to ensure the full participation of indigenous peoples in the Conference.

We thank you for your answers in advance and wish you well in your ongoing mandates.

Thank you Madam President.