

UNITED NATIONS**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL****Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples****10th session (10 to 14 July 2017)****Agenda Item 3****New mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:
Activities and methods of work.**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The European Union is pleased to address the tenth session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP). As this is the first time that the EU is taking the floor during this session, allow me also to congratulate XXX on your election as the Chair.

As supporters for strengthening the mandate of EMRIP following the recommendations of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the EU is pleased to contribute to this discussion on the new mandate of EMRIP.

The revised mandate of EMRIP has further strengthened the human rights based approach of EMRIP by fully aligning it to the overall objective of achieving the ends of UNDRIP and by requesting EMRIP to coordinate and further strengthen its participation, engagement and cooperation, as appropriate, not only with the other United Nations indigenous mechanisms but also with other United Nations bodies and processes.

The overall objective and the institutional set up of EMRIP coupled with its more specific mandates open up for a potentially comprehensive and heavy work programme. While the Expert Mechanism determines its own methods of work, the EU wishes to contribute with some thoughts that can ensure the success of the new mandate. Most importantly, the EU would like to encourage EMRIP and its experts to, while aiming high, develop and agree on a work programme with realistic time bound deliveries, covering a period of 6 years (two terms). To identify possible synergies and avoid unnecessary overlaps, this work programme could be discussed with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) as well as the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (SRRIP). The programme should be publicly available on the OHCHR website with a view to ensuring transparency, and should continuously be revisited, adjusted and/or extended on an annual

basis at the regular EMRIP sessions, allowing indigenous peoples' representative institutions, UN Member states and other stakeholders to actively comment and contribute.

During this agenda item, the EU also wishes to express its gratitude to and appreciation for the work of the Expert members of the EMRIP. We know that your work and dedication entail many more hours of work and travel than what we see in conjunction with EMRIP's regular sessions and intersessional meetings. Furthermore, many of the studies and reports of EMRIP could not have taken place without the support – in kind as well as financially - of Member states and many others such as the academic friends of the EMRIP, National Human Rights Institutions as well as NGO's and indigenous peoples' organisations and representative institutions. This continued support to EMRIP's work ensures that the success of EMRIP's new mandate rests on many shoulders.

Mr/Ms Chairperson,

Let me assure you of the EU's continued support in bringing the new mandate to life so it can become an important vehicle on the road to the advancement and recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples as set out in the UNDRIP. On 15 May, the EU adopted, for the first time in 15 years, Council conclusions specifically on indigenous peoples, underlining the important contributions of all indigenous mechanisms, including EMRIP and reaffirm the EU's support hereto.

Thank you.