

Structural
Analysis of
Cultural
Systems

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United Nations
Human Rights Council
Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Sixth session

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Date

Geneva, 8-12 July 2013

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Organisation: Structural Analysis of Cultural Systems
Agenda Item 3

EMRIP and the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Thank you, Chair ,

Firstly, I would like to congratulate you on your election. The upcoming World Conference on Indigenous Peoples provides the opportunity for the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to give some valuable input, based on the work that has so far been done. Studies have been presented, and throughout the sessions, there has been a critical discourse on the indigenous rights situation, which could lead to improvement. From an academic perspective, some aspects can be highlighted, which are particularly relevant to further promote the indigenous cause.

With regard to cooperation between indigenous peoples and states, translating the often-demanded inclusive and participatory processes into action is very difficult due to the fact that power is unequally distributed. Bearing this imbalance in mind, the terms "inclusive" and "participatory", used e.g. in the Permanent Forum's report E/2012/43, raise the question, who includes whom, and who is participating in what. As that report also states that the implementation of the minimum standards of the Indigenous Rights Declaration need to be ensured, it becomes evident that these minimum standards have by far not been reached. Dominance effects generally play a determining role in transcultural interactions between the indigenous and the non-indigenous side. It should therefore be noted that reflections from a meta-level about these constellations are important for mutually satisfactory outcomes. This is especially true for the upcoming World Conference, as it gives a special chance for states to define regulations preventing violations of indigenous rights, particularly in the light of the General Assembly's resolution 66/296 on the World Conference's organisation. EMRIP has a responsible role, as it can take the initiative of moderating a dialogue at the World Conference, targeted at non-biased and unrestricted implementation of the Indigenous Rights.

Thank you, Chair ,