

From UN DRIP to UN CRIP, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

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If we listen to the many speeches given here by representatives of the world's indigenous peoples we will get aware about the size, spread and often the criminality of actions by states against Indigenous peoples, though the latter (repressive criminal actions by states) have fortunately become more rare though not exceptional cases.

Mme Chairperson, this expert mechanism (to which I include the many delegates of the Indigenous peoples of world represented here) is the second edition of an older body, the legendary UN Working Group on Indigenous Peoples (officially Populations). This WGIP has over ten years of an extra week of work elaborated what became the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The UN DRIP was elaborated mostly under the motherly authority of Mme Daes. Despite being taken away from the WGIP and given to a newly created additional body, the Indigenous delegates participating there were able to hold on to most formulation we have elaborated on during an extra-week additional to the official session of the former working group.

This document on which our combined efforts have been focusing for over a decade is known as UN DRIP and it is mostly forgotten, which seems to be inherent to declarations and other non-law pronouncements.

It should be one of the key tasks of this Expert Mechanism to become active in unearthing the UN DRIP declaration and transform it into a United Nations Convention on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, UN CRIP, for which duty an especially tasked body could or should be created.

Dear chairperson, I am ready to repeat this appeal in every upcoming session of EMRIP, though I and many **indigenous delegates would greatly appreciate if this project could be taken up rather sooner than later by the Human Rights Council.** I am aware that at least two former British settler colonies would be active to prevent such action as much and as long as possible. The reason to that is that they have decided to simply ignore the declaration on the rights of Indigenous peoples but they would not be able to ignore a convention on the same matters for many years.