

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

**Ninth Session - Geneva**

**10-14 July 2017**

**Agenda Item 3: New mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:  
activities and methods of work.**

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**INTERVENTION DELIVERED BY CATHRYN EATOCK As CHAIR OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES  
ORGANISATION & THE ABORIGINAL RIGHTS COALITION-AUSTRALIA:**

Thank-you Mr Chair, Honourable forum members and distinguished Indigenous Brothers and Sisters. Mr Chair I also congratulate you on your re-appointment for this session.

I am Cathy Eatock, a Kairi and Budtjala woman, my people come from central Queensland in Australia. I am speaking as Chairperson of the Indigenous Peoples Organisation, an Australian national body with 250 organisations and members nationally.

We congratulate the *Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (EMRIP) on the development of its revised mandate and the inclusive approach it undertook in determining the nature of those amendments. In particular, we are pleased to see the extension of the Experts to seven reflecting all Indigenous geo-social regions, and now including the unique concerns of the Pacific region. We congratulate Megan Davis on her appointment as the first Pacific representative to fulfil this significant position on EMRIP. We look forward to working with Megan in this important role and all the experts to ensure the views and specific concerns of the Pacific region are reflected within these mechanisms.

We also welcome the opportunity for EMRIP to direct the subject of its studies and support the previous request for the selection of the topic of these studies to be undertaken during the EMRIP session, to enable Indigenous peoples timely input into that selection process.

This year is also momentous in being the tenth anniversary of both the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and of EMRIP itself. However, while States have endorsed the Declaration, its implementation on the ground remains fraught in many regions. So, we urge States, such as Australia, to draw on the expertise that EMRIP provides to seek expert technical advice to ensure that their domestic legislation meets with those obligations set out and agreed to in the Declaration. We also encourage those States to engage in a strong dialogue with its Indigenous peoples, its Indigenous representative bodies and Indigenous Stake holders, which also may now be facilitated through the revised mandate of EMRIP.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to these discussions.