



ARMENIA

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September 27, 2021

**HRC 48: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous People**

**Delivered by Mrs. Zoya Stepanyan, First Secretary**

Madam President,

Armenia thanks the Special Rapporteur for presentation of his report and engagement with the Council.

We are of the view that full application of human rights norms, inter alia those reflected in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, is vital for addressing the most urgent protection needs of indigenous communities. We also see the meaningful participation of indigenous actors as a prerequisite for developing effective policies.

Distinguished Special Rapporteur elaborated on a number of areas where the rights and livelihoods of indigenous people are further worsened because of pandemic.

We would like to highlight the issue of access to education for indigenous children, especially for girls. There is ample evidence that absence of internet coverage as well as persisting digital divide are only few of impeding factors to realize the basic right to education.

Armenia concurs with the view that adequate response to health care challenges is among the most pressing issues at the moment and tailor-made approach is needed to increase awareness, combat misinformation on vaccines and safeguard adequate health infrastructure, especially in remote areas.

Last, but not least, Armenia would like to stress the importance of human rights based approach when tackling multitude of problems in environmental, cultural, political and economic dimensions as well as accountability for crack-downs, militarized responses and overall discrimination that indigenous people still face.

I thank you.