

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Twelfth Session

15-19 July 2019

18 July 2019

Item 10: Proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council for its consideration and approval

Submission by Kenneth Deer of the Indigenous World Association

Good afternoon, Madame Chair and thank you for this opportunity to put forth a proposal to the Expert Mechanism which follows up on Monday's Human Rights Council's Intersessional interactive dialogue on ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meeting of the Human Rights Council on issues affecting them (pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution 39/13).

We have reflected on the core concerns related to the enhanced participation of Indigenous peoples within the United Nations systems. These core concerns are: 1) accreditation of Indigenous peoples by the United Nations system and 2) the need for a mechanism to ensure systemic improvements to addressing the human rights and overall representation of, and reflection of Indigenous peoples within the United Nations, as equal members of the international family of humanity.

We make the following two recommendations to the Expert Mechanism:

1. We recommend that the Expert Mechanism propose to the Human Rights Council that the Council puts forth a resolution at the upcoming session in September 2019 that establishes Observer Status or a Distinct Status for Indigenous Peoples representative institutions equivalent to Observer Status within the Human Rights Council, in consultation with Indigenous peoples, in accordance with its unique methods of work.
2. Request that the Human Rights Council encourage the Secretary General appoint a Special Representative on Indigenous Peoples.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.