



**EUROPEAN UNION**  
Permanent Delegation to the United Nations Office  
and other international organisations in Geneva

**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**  
**45<sup>th</sup> session**

**Interactive Dialogue with EMRIP**

**EU Intervention**

**24 September 2020**

Madame President,

The EU welcomes the valuable work and special role of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) and thanks the EMRIP for its two latest reports.

The report on the right to land highlights how it is not only a defining element of indigenous peoples identity and culture, but also how it is crucial for enabling a number of other rights such as the right to life, the right to self-determination, the right to dignity and the right to health.

The second report describes past violations of the rights of indigenous peoples by improperly acquiring, using and keeping ceremonial objects, human remains and intangible cultural heritage. The EU continues to follow closely initiatives about repatriation of human remains and initiatives enabling the access and/or repatriation of ceremonial objects – following the UNDRIP- in order to respect indigenous peoples' cultural rights and spiritual traditions.

Members of the EMRIP, what could be done to improve the cooperation between indigenous peoples and different stakeholders, to improve repatriation of indigenous peoples' ceremonial objects, human remains and intangible cultural heritage? And what is your assessment of the risk the COVID-19 pandemic poses to indigenous peoples, especially as regards to indigenous peoples' right to land?

Thank you.