

**Indigenous Expert Mechanism**  
**Item 3: implementation of resolution 6/36**  
**1 October 2008**

**NEW ZEALAND**

Tena Koutou, Tena Koutou, Tena Koutou Katoa.

Mr President,

New Zealand supports the establishment of this new indigenous expert mechanism and recognises the efforts that have gone into its establishment. New Zealand welcomes the presence today of the 5 members of the expert mechanism, the Special Rapporteur Mr Anaya and indigenous representatives from many countries. In particular, we welcome representatives who have travelled from Aotearoa New Zealand.

The mainstreaming and effective implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples at home and abroad is of primary importance to New Zealand. New Zealand cosponsored the Human Rights Council's recent resolution on the rights of indigenous peoples, which provides initial guidance to the expert mechanism. We would note that this is one mechanism of the Human Rights Council and there is scope for simultaneous mainstreaming of the perspective of indigenous people in other mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, including its extensive system of special procedures and the universal periodic review.

We welcome the expert mechanism's focus on the provision of concrete and practical thematic advice, which will contribute to ensuring an indigenous perspective is integrated into the work of the Human Rights Council, on areas of importance to indigenous peoples, without duplicating the work or mandates of other mechanisms within the Human Rights Council and the wider UN system, in particular that of the Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples and the Permanent Forum. We thank the Special Rapporteur for his clear statement today and note his intention to focus on situations.

We agree with the sentiment expressed earlier today, including by AIR Trust and Te Runanga O Nga Kamahi, that we want the expert mechanism to be seen as professional, its advice to be acted upon and that the Human Rights Council respects and listens to the mechanism. For this to happen, we support the request and provision of focused contributions, prepared in consultation with all interested stakeholders.

The provision of focused thematic advice on human rights issues will facilitate the improved understanding, prominence and relevance of the perspective of indigenous peoples in the Council's work, importantly, in the effective implementation of all human rights.

We look forward to hearing views from the diverse range of interests represented here, in particular on the effective enjoyment by indigenous peoples of their right to education. We hope to learn from and contribute to discussion on this important right, and in the future, on other topics of relevance and importance to indigenous peoples and to the work of the Human Rights Council.