

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE FINNISH SÁMI YOUTH ORGANIZATION

Thank you, Madame Chair,

My name is Ida-Maria Helander and I'm delivering this statement on behalf of the Finnish Sámi Youth organization.

First of all, I want to thank UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples for the grant and opportunity to be here today and I also want to thank Finland for supporting the Fund.

In 2011 the Supreme Administrative Court of Finland decided to adopt four controversial decisions against the decisions of the Election Board of the Sámi Parliament. Again in 2015 the Court accepted the applications of 97 persons who didn't meet the criteria of the Sámi definition. These persons are allowed to vote in the Sámi Parliament election still. And the Sámi Parliament Act which allows this to happen haven't still been amended.

EMRIP undertook its first country engagement mission to Finland in 2018. I want to thank the Experts for doing the country engagement to Finland. Even though the amending of the Sámi Parliament Act wasn't successful.

On February the Human rights Committee published two decisions which clearly stated that Finland violated the rights of representatives to the Sámi parliament by improperly extending its pool of eligible candidates.

On July 5, the Supreme Administrative Court announced that it had dismissed the Sámi Parliament's application for cancellation of decisions made in 2011 and 2015.

The state of Finland has started to campaign to be a member in the Human Rights Council. Still it continues knowingly violating the right to self-determination of Sámis. For our eyes it seems quite arrogant and bold to campaign for a seat in the Human Rights Council while back home the state of Finland isn't respecting the human rights conventions and covenants and overlooks the recommendations made by UN Treaty bodies.

Thank you!