

## **6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

### **Agenda Item 6: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights Indigenous Peoples**

#### **Statement by the Saami Council**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

Six years after the adoption of the UNDRIP, the Saami Council remains concerned over the slow pace in which the Declaration is being implemented, in countries with Sami population and elsewhere. We are particularly concerned with the lack of advancement when it comes to implementation of the key rights enshrined in the UNDRIP; the right to self-determination and the land and resource rights.

For this reason, the Saami Council has proposed that an optional protocol to the Declaration be established. The establishment of an international body that oversees the implementation of the UNDRIP, with a particular focus on the right to self-determination and the land and resource rights, remains one of our priorities in the World Conference process. We refer here to Theme 2, Recommendation 1, of the Alta Outcome Document.

Mr. Chairperson,

Mechanisms should in addition be established to further the implementation of the rights enshrined in the UNDRIP on a national level. At the Permanent Forum last year, the government of Norway announced that it will produce annual reports where it outlines what the country has done to implement the recommendations made by Special Rapporteur James Anaya in his report on the situation of the Sámi people. We commend Norway for this initiative, but at the same time call on Norway to extend this reporting undertaking to report annually on what the Norway has done to implement the rights enshrined in the UNDRIP. The same recommendation also goes to the other states with Sami population, and to states in general.

To further enhance the follow-up of the implementation of the UNDRIP, the states with Sami population as well as other states should also establish national implementation institutions to oversee the implementation of the rights enshrined in the Declaration.

Mr. Chairperson, the Saami Council submits the following recommendations for EMRIP's consideration:

1. That EMRIP recommends to the Human Rights Council that states report annually on the measures they have taken to implement the rights enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with a particular focus on the right to self-determination and the land and resource rights.
2. That EMRIP recommends to the Human Rights Council that states establish institutions to oversee and promote the implementation of the rights contained in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and that this institution also be mandated to oversee the implementations made by UN treaty bodies, Special Procedures, the Universal Periodic Review and other mechanisms with regard to indigenous peoples' rights, in collaboration with the indigenous peoples concerned. Such mechanisms should cooperate closely with national human rights institutions.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.