

**27<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council (8-26 September 2014)**

**Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

**Wednesday, 17 September 2014**

**Statement by Ireland**

Ireland would like to add some remarks to those made on our behalf in the statement of the European Union.

We congratulate the **Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** on her first report to this Council. Ireland supports the appropriate focus given by the Council to the rights of indigenous peoples, particularly in light of the levels of discrimination and isolation that they face around the world. In some States, discrimination against indigenous people has deep and entrenched historical roots and has led to some of the most flagrant human rights violations and abuses including the dispossession of indigenous peoples of their ancestral lands and natural resources, the removal of children from their families, mass killings and the denial of their rights to cultural expression and self-determination.

Ireland agrees that these historical wrongs must be put right through reconciliation processes and restorative justice. At the same time, we note with deep concern that the isolation of indigenous peoples continues today, and that, as highlighted in the Report, they fare worse than their non-indigenous counterparts in terms of development, including with regard to levels of poverty, education, health, unemployment, housing conditions, clean water and sanitation.

We note the Special Rapporteur's intention to focus on the impact that existing and future economic investment, trade agreements and treaties, and conventions on the environment and culture, can have on indigenous people. In this regard, we would like to ask the Special Rapporteur if she could elaborate on some of the future agreements of this nature which she intends to examine.

Mr. President,

Ireland welcomes the two thematic studies by the **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** and the questionnaire responses and proposals outlined in their Report to the Council. We note with interest the proposal to convene a technical expert seminar in collaboration with the Working Group on

Business and Human Rights so that the rights of indigenous peoples are considered in that group's ongoing work. Such a proposal could complement the focus of the new Special Rapporteur on the impact of treaties and agreements on indigenous peoples, and is welcome in itself since, of course, one of the key principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is that indigenous peoples must be consulted and involved in decision-making processes which affect them.

*Can members of the Expert Mechanism perhaps outline some of the issues that might be examined in the proposed seminar?*

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