

2008 Kyung nha kang

Human Rights Council
Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
First session
1-3 October 2008

**OPENING OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE EXPERT MECHANISM ON
THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

1 October 2008

10:00 - 13:00

(Room XIX, Palais des Nations)

**Opening of the session by the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for
Human Rights, Ms. Kyung-wha Kang**

I hereby declare open the first meeting of the first session of the Expert Mechanism on
the Rights of Indigenous Peoples [GAVEL].

Allow me to make some remarks on this historic occasion.

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER

[.....]

I now have the pleasure to welcome the President of the Human Rights Council, H.E. Mr.
Martin Uhomoibhi, who will share with us his thoughts. Mr President, you have the floor.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

[.....]

I thank you Mr. President for your presence today and your kind words of support for the
task the members of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will
begin today.

Item 1 – Election of officers

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished experts

Let us now proceed with the first item on our agenda which is the election of officers in
accordance with rule 103 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

I understand there is agreement among the experts on a Chairperson-Rapporteur and a Vice Chairperson-Rapporteur. I now invite one of the distinguished experts to make the nomination.

I recognize Ms Jannie Lasimbang, you have the floor.

Statement by Ms. Lasimbang for the nomination of Chairperson.

[.....]

I thank you for your contribution.

In the absence of any objections, it is my privilege to declare Mr. John Henriksen elected Chairperson-Rapporteur and Mr. José Carlos Morales, Vice Chairperson-Rapporteur of the first session of the Human Rights Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by acclamation.

[GAVEL]

Would the Chairperson-Rapporteur please come to the podium to take his seat and assume his functions?

[Elected Chairperson joins the DHC at the podium]

Newly Elected Chairperson Mr. John Henriksen

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the honour you have given me and the confidence which you have placed in me by electing me Chairperson-Rapporteur of the first session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. I am looking forward to working with you during these three days in order to provide expertise to the Human Rights Council.

I would now like to share with you some preliminary considerations.

[Further remarks/Statement by the Chairperson]

I would like to suspend the meeting for 10 minutes to allow the President of the Human Rights Council and the Deputy High Commissioner to leave us.

[GAVEL]

I would like now to give the floor to Mr. Rex Lee Jim for a thanks giving on behalf of the Indigenous Caucus.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Adoption of the agenda

The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is now called upon to adopt its agenda for its first session.

In this regard, I draw the attention of members to document A/HRC/EMRIP/2008/1/Rev 1, which includes the following changes in the light of the resolution L.17 adopted by the Human Rights Council on 24 September 2008.

PRESENTATION OF THE NEW AGENDA ITEMS.

Does any member wish to make a statement with regard to the provisional agenda as revised?

I see none. May I therefore consider the revised agenda for the first session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted? [GAVEL]

Programme of Work

Let us now proceed with the consideration of the programme of work in accordance with rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

You have before you a draft programme of work for approval. This draft timetable shows the order and distribution of meeting time for each agenda item/segment of its programme of work for the first session, according to the revised agenda.

PRESENTATION BY CHAIRPERSON-RAPPORTEUR OF THE PROGRAM OF WORK DESCRIBING EACH ITEM