



# AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail [UN.Geneva@dfat.gov.au](mailto:UN.Geneva@dfat.gov.au)

Chemin des Fins 2, Petit Saconnex, 1211 Geneva 19 Ph +41 22 799 9100 Fax +41 22 799 9175 [www.geneva.mission.gov.au](http://www.geneva.mission.gov.au)

---

## **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

### **Tenth Session 10-14 July 2016**

#### **Australia Statement on Item 3: New mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: activities and methods of work**

##### **Monday 10 July 1100-1300**

\*Draft methods of work for implementation of the new mandate will be presented by the Expert mechanism during this item.

Chair,

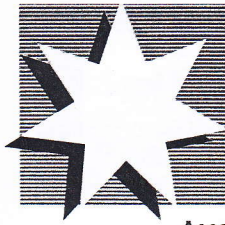
Australia welcomes the new mandate of the Expert Mechanism, and the opportunity to contribute to the discussion on the proposed methods of work.

We strongly support the new mandate's focus on providing evidence based best practice and practical advice.

This will ensure that the expertise and knowledge of the Expert Mechanism assists Member States, indigenous peoples, the private sector, non-government organisations and United Nations bodies in making the aims of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples a reality for indigenous peoples around the world. Their joint experience and insight will give the best examples of actions that move past the symbolic.

We value the provision of technical assistance and guidance to Member States and indigenous peoples. Countries have many different political, legislative and practical realities, and the nature of obstacles facing indigenous peoples around the world are disparate and complex. This is why we welcome the Expert Mechanism's practical advice on how to use the principles of the Declaration to improve the lives of indigenous peoples in many different contexts around the world.

Australia welcomes the commitment by the Expert Mechanism to provide an annual study on a specific theme and related articles in the Declaration. We support this targeted approach, and believe it will be of great benefit to focus the attention of the Experts, Member States and indigenous peoples on addressing a common issue. The Expert Mechanism will have an



# AUSTRALIA



important role to play in facilitating the use of all our combined experiences to develop  
AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS solutions and best practice. E-mail UN.Geneva@dfat.gov.au

Chemin des Fins 2, Petit Saconnex, 1211 Geneva 19 Ph +41 22 799 9100 Fax +41 22 799 9175 [www.geneva.mission.gov.au](http://www.geneva.mission.gov.au)

We also welcome the Expert Mechanism working with national human rights institutions.

Australia believes that the Expert Mechanism must complement the functions of other mechanisms in the United Nations system. The proposed methods of work should support the renewed Expert Mechanism, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to be complementary in their roles, without duplication of effort.

The Expert Mechanism should also strengthen its interactions with other United Nations Funds, Programs and specialised agencies, as well as providing input to the Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals and Universal Periodic Review mechanisms. This will ensure the views of indigenous peoples are heard across the United Nations system.

---