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IPACC

IPACC statement on Agenda item 3.

First session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Mr Chairperson/Rapporteur, congratulations on your appointment to the chair of the first expert mechanism.

The Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee, an Africa wide network of more than 150 Indigenous Peoples organizations from 20 countries and 6 regions in Africa congratulates the 5 members of the Expert Mechanism to their appointment.

IPACC looks forward to working closely with the Expert Mechanism on the implementation of its mandate to assist in the implementation of the Rights contained in the Declaration, and indeed, all human rights instruments.

In this regard, IPACC, its member organizations and networks have a body of knowledge on the situation and concerns of indigenous peoples in Africa and place this at the disposal of the Experts in the successful conclusion of their mandate.

We also urge the Expert Mechanism to establish a working relationship with the Working Group on indigenous populations of the African Commission of Human and Peoples Rights who has engaged in extensive studies on the situation of indigenous peoples in Africa.

We encourage the Expert Mechanism to include regional seminars on topical issues in its methods of work, and in particular to prioritise holding such a session in Africa during your term of office.

Thank you