

Ms Hine-Har Loose
NEW ZEALAND

Statement for the dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous People

We wish to congratulate Professor James Anaya on a job well done in this his third year as Special Rapporteur on the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedom of indigenous people.

In the High Commissioner's report on the rights of indigenous people, it states that Professor Anaya has tried to develop work methods aimed at creating a constructive dialogue with governments, indigenous people and non-governmental organizations. We certainly found this to be the case when Professor Anaya recently visited New Zealand from 18 - 23 July. Country visits by Special Rapporteurs are an opportunity to acknowledge where progress has been made and confront what are often significant challenges. Professor Anaya's visit to New Zealand achieved these two objectives. We especially appreciated his willingness to meet with a wide range of government Ministers, Maori tribes and other organizations.

The New Zealand Government is committed to resolving outstanding historical grievances under the Treaty of Waitangi. We look forward to receiving Professor Anaya's recommendations and hope that these offer practical advice as to how we can make further progress in advancing the rights of Maori in New Zealand.

We welcome Professor Anaya's willingness to meet with individuals wishing to raise allegations in the margins of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People. We would strongly encourage Professor Anaya to continue this work as a means of ensuring complementarity between his mandate and that of EMRIP. In this regard, we would be interested in further initiatives that Professor Anaya might have on this matter.