

**Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Tenth Session, 10 – 14 July 2017**

Item 3: New mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Activities and methods of work

10 July 2017

Statement by the Nordic Countries

Chairperson,

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic countries: Denmark with Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and my own country Finland.

(As we take the floor for the first time, let us congratulate you on the appointment as Chair of EMRIP.)

The Nordic countries are studying with interest the newly published EMRIP's Methods of work for Reports to the Human Rights Council and country engagement. We encourage EMRIP to coordinate and interact more effectively with the other two indigenous-specific mandates, as it is of outmost importance to avoid unnecessary overlap and ensuring complementarity, as well as to ensure an effective and efficient functioning of the EMRIP.

The new mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) is one of the key achievements in the follow-up to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. It is a welcome step in strengthening the support to the realization of Indigenous Peoples' rights as we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Dialogue is a strong element also in EMRIP's new mandate. In this spirit, we encourage that EMRIP will make every effort to continue giving a voice to

Indigenous Peoples through its work and meetings. This is especially important for those Indigenous Peoples, who do not have possibilities to engage in the discussions at the UN.

We hope that EMRIP continues its strong support for Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions participation at United Nations meetings in matters affecting them. UN Member States and Indigenous Peoples have engaged in important discussions on this topic for a year and a half. These discussions have provided important insights into the positive contribution Indigenous Peoples have made and can make to the UN system. Naturally also challenges have been taken into account. We are yet to wait for a conclusion of intergovernmental negotiations, which we wish will take into account both the views of Member States and Indigenous Peoples.

EMRIP's thematic studies over the years have clarified the scope and content of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Nordic countries have appreciated EMRIP's efforts to provide continuing follow-up to these studies and that the studies have well reflected the views of Indigenous Peoples. The new approach with an annual study on the status of the rights of indigenous peoples worldwide in the achievement of the ends of the Declaration provides an enhanced opportunity to keep the UNDRIP a living and relevant instrument.

We hope that through the findings and conclusions in the annual report, EMRIP could facilitate constructive dialogue between Member States and Indigenous Peoples on domestic level on a voluntary and request basis.

The Nordic countries look forward to continued cooperation and dialogue with EMRIP.

Thank you.