



15th UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)

06 July 2022

Australian Statement

Item 11: Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples' in the United Nations

Australia remains steadfast in our support for indigenous peoples' participation in UN meetings on issues that affect them. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognises that it is the responsibility of all UN agencies and organs to establish methods of indigenous participation.

We support the call from indigenous peoples to establish a unique category in the UN system to enable their participation, bearing in mind that not all States have representative bodies for indigenous peoples, and not all indigenous peoples are represented by NGOs.

Australia will appoint an Ambassador for First Nations Peoples to deepen our support for indigenous peoples and their efforts to participate in the UN to speak truth to their experiences.

We are also proud to be one of the largest financial contributors to the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples. We implore other States to help enable enhanced indigenous participation by supporting this valuable mechanism.

Indigenous peoples, including from Australia, have worked tirelessly over many decades to enhance their participation in the UN system. We acknowledge this hard work and thank those who have patiently pursued it.

In this spirit, we call on States to work together on a robust, accessible, and transparent mechanism which opens the door for indigenous participation across the UN.

We ask EMRIP, what are the next steps to enhance indigenous participation in the United Nations?