



**8<sup>th</sup> session of the Expert Mechanism on the rights of  
indigenous peoples**

**Agenda item 3: Follow-up to the World Conference on  
Indigenous Peoples, including the review of the mandate of  
the Expert Mechanism.**

**Delivered by Deputy Permanent Representative Carl Reaich**  
*First Secretary Jarrod Clyne* 20 July 2015

Mr Chair,

The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples was important for both Member States and indigenous peoples. At that meeting, we reflected on the progress made and remaining challenges since the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The outcome document provides a roadmap to build on the progress made since 2007 and to take actions to address the remaining challenges.

One of these challenges was to carefully consider issues of balance and efficiency in relation to UN mechanisms on indigenous issues, under paragraph 28 of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. We would like to take this opportunity to outline New Zealand's preliminary views on this matter, and we look forward to engaging constructively in the process of the review as it develops.

We support the idea that the Expert Mechanism's new mandate should include a stronger role in terms of facilitating the application of the Declaration at the national and international level for EMRIP. This could be done, for example, by EMRIP collecting and disseminating information about good practices, issuing general observations about the provisions of the Declaration, and by collaborating and taking joint action with other human rights mechanisms.

New Zealand recognises the complementarity between existing mechanisms, but also notes some duplication of functions, including between the work that is conducted in Geneva and New York. We must remain mindful of the linkages of existing mechanisms and national and international procedures. We agree that under a revised mandate, the Expert Mechanism should engage more actively with the Universal Periodic Review, the Special Procedures and the Human Rights Treaty Bodies.

New Zealand considers that communications procedures are well handled by the Special Rapporteur, and her broad mandate sufficiently covers UNDRIP issues, including through alleged violations through communications with Governments, and reports on the overall human rights situations of indigenous peoples in selected countries.

New Zealand would be hesitant about additional modalities that might distract our collective efforts away from existing procedures, or that could undermine the bodies already mandated with these important responsibilities.

Another important element of the World Conference outcome document was consideration of matters of participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations. The voice of indigenous peoples is fundamental to any meaningful consideration of indigenous issues in international fora. New Zealand supports better recognition of the status of indigenous people's participation at the UN. Barriers must be reduced and the unique status of indigenous peoples must be recognised.

We believe that ECOSOC consideration of the issue is a useful way forward, as envisaged by paragraph 40 of the WCIP outcome document. We note in this regard that this week ECOSOC will consider the report of the Permanent Forum and the report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the outcome document of the WCIP.

Thank you Mr Chair