

EM12USA216

Statement by the Delegation of the United States of America

**Item 7: Proposals to be Submitted to the Human Rights Council for its
Consideration and Approval**

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

July 9-13, 2012; Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President. Since this is the last time I will take the floor, I would like to thank Chief Littlechild for his stewardship of this session, as well as all of the expert members of EMRIP and representatives of indigenous groups present this week for their participation.

With regard to possible proposals concerning EMRIP's future work that EMRIP might submit to the Human Rights Council for its consideration, consistent with HRC Resolution 6/36, EMRIP might wish to focus on best practices with regard to the role of women in economic development, the preservation of culture, and tribal governance in a future study or in the provision of research-based advice.

We have also taken note of the interest of the mechanism in the way in which the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights may relate to indigenous peoples, and in particular with regard to the need to consult affected groups as appropriate. We stress the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach in this field. For example, the United States recently announced its commitment to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), an effort that will require the participation of government, companies, and civil society in decision-making processes within the initiative. Tribes could participate in EITI as part of the government, company, or civil society constituencies, depending on how they self-identify. Similarly, we believe that implementation of the Guiding Principles will be best served by including all stakeholders. We would therefore encourage EMRIP to work with the Working Group on Business and Human Rights on these issues so that all interested parties can participate fully in the discussion.

This has been an instructive EMRIP session. The United States welcomed the opportunity this past week to share our views on important issues affecting indigenous peoples. Thank you for your attention.