

**Item 5 (d) Human rights dialogue with UNSRIP and EMRIP**

Arctic Caucus statement delivered by Åsa Larsson Blind, Vice-president Saami Council

Thank you, Madam/Mr Chair.

I greet you from Sápmi and speak on behalf of the Arctic Caucus, consisting of the Sámi and the Inuit, the Indigenous peoples of the Arctic socio-cultural region in the Permanent Forum.

We want to stress and emphasize UN Member state responsibility to implement indigenous peoples' rights. We welcome Canada's consideration of Bill C-15 to implement the UN Declaration at the national level. Yet, in Sápmi there are three recent decisions that have not yet been implemented.

The Supreme Court ruling of the Girjas case in Sweden, January 2020. The decision from UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, CERD, on the case of Rönnbäcken mining project in Sweden, November 2020. The decision from UN Human Rights Committee on the case of Sámi Parliament electoral roll in Finland, February 2019. The implementation of these decisions has not progressed as expected, and we know that there are many more examples to be found all over the Indigenous world.

Because of the stunning lack of concrete progress in the realization of the rights of Indigenous peoples, December 2020, the International Law Association [ILA] *Committee on Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, specifically calls on States to fully comply with their obligations relating to Indigenous peoples' rights.

The Committee underscored the need for States to “enhance their domestic legislation in the field of Indigenous peoples' rights”, as well as removal of “all social, cultural, structural and institutional obstacles hindering the realization of such rights.”

The Arctic caucus recommend the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to emphasize that Governments must comply with decisions by domestic courts and international human rights treaty bodies and implement indigenous peoples' rights.

Thank you for your attention.