

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Twelfth Session 15 – 19 July 2019

Human Rights Council, 15 July 2019

**Nordic Statement at the Intersessional interactive dialogue on
ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples’
representatives and institutions in the meetings of the Human
Rights Council on issues affecting them**

Delivered by Ambassador of Sweden, Veronika Bard

Madame President,

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries: Iceland, Norway, Finland, Denmark together with Greenland, and my own country Sweden.

The voices of indigenous peoples, including women and youth, are not sufficiently heard in matters that concern them.

The Nordic Countries welcome the initiative to organize a Dialogue Meeting on Enhanced Indigenous Peoples’ Participation at the United Nations in Ecuador from 1st to 7th August 2019, hosted by Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon River Basin. We hope that this meeting will give practical recommendations to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2020 and to the forthcoming regional consultations.

The Nordic Countries encourage the Human Rights Council to take concrete steps towards allowing indigenous peoples’ representatives to participate in Council meetings relevant to their rights, as appropriate.

Indigenous peoples should be able to participate, for example, in the dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to propose candidates for the Special Procedures mandates. The participation modalities should at least include opportunities to speak and provide written information.

Which Special Procedures do the panelists considers most important in this regard?

Many issues that affect indigenous peoples are of shared concern to states and indigenous peoples, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, and environmental migration, which are all related to human rights. Enhancing participation and taking into account traditional, indigenous and local knowledge will benefit all.

Thank you.