



EUROPEAN UNION
Permanent Delegation
to the International Organisations in Geneva

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Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, Professor J. Anaya

Mr. President,

The European Union wishes to thank Professor James Anaya for his third annual report to the Council and for the comprehensive presentation today.

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

We welcome all your efforts aimed at enhancing cooperation and coordination with the other UN mechanisms dealing with the theme of indigenous peoples. In this regard, you report about your meeting with representatives of the Permanent Forum and the Expert Mechanism, which was devoted to the exchange of information on the respective working agendas, ways of channeling the different activities and making them more effective.

Could you please elaborate further about the main conclusions of this discussion with the representatives of the Permanent Forum? What are the practical means and ways to enhance coordination and cooperation among these UN mechanisms?

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

The European Union considers that business activities must be conducted in a manner consistent with people's enjoyment of their human rights. However, each State bears the responsibility to protect human rights within its jurisdiction. Thus, we share your view that it is also the state's duty to protect against potential human rights abuses by business enterprises, as well as to investigate these and ensure adequate accountability.

In your report, a number of self-regulatory initiatives on corporate responsibility with respect to human rights is enumerated. As you indicate in your report, other international organizations, such as the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation or the International Council on Mining and Metals, have also developed some guidelines/standards in this respect.

In your opinion, how could such initiatives aimed at respecting the rights of indigenous peoples, as set out in the UNDRIP, be promoted, and how can business companies be encouraged to join them? What would be the possibilities of strengthening cooperation among various international organizations in this area?

Finally, the European Union would like to commend you on the remarkable dedication with which you are performing your work as Special Rapporteur and wish you all the best in fulfilling your important and complex mandate.

I thank you for your attention !