

Thank you Mr. Chairman

The North America Region affirms the importance of the ground breaking studies on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples conducted by the experts to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations which have contributed so much to the advances which we continue to make in the international arena. In this regard we recognize the study on Treaties, Agreements and Other Constructive Arrangements by the late Dr. Miguel Alfonso Martinez, and look forward to advancing in this area of work with Indigenous Peoples, States, and UN agencies at the 3rd UN Treaty seminar next week.

Another very important Study which remains of central importance and continued relevance was the Study by Madame Erica-Irene Daes, former Chairperson of the WGIP on the Permanent Sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples over Natural Resources, which was followed up by the "Expert seminar on Indigenous Peoples"

There has been considerable progress in the recognition of this right since the Study and Expert Seminar were concluded. Of central importance is the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which affirmed a number of relevant rights in articles 3, 26, 28, 31 and 32 among others. It also provided the recognition of Indigenous Peoples as Peoples with full rights to enjoyment of the full right of self-determination as expressed in Article 1 in common in the two United Nations Human Rights Covenants.

Based on the interventions of many Indigenous Peoples at this Session under Agenda Item 4 on Extractive Industries, as well as the realities in our communities and Nations on the ground, it is clear that considerable work needs to be done in this area. This includes mechanisms for implementation and consideration of the implications of the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the UN Declaration. The richness and diversity of the natural world, the land, water, air, plants, seeds, animals and minerals often referred to as "natural resources," are essential for our cultural practices, spirituality, food sovereignty, Treaty rights, traditional economies, political sovereignty and survival ways of life.

As the EMRIP is the successor body of the WGIP, this is an appropriate UN forum to advance consideration of this area of work, which is of vital importance for the rights and survival of Indigenous Peoples. The North America Indigenous Peoples regional caucus at the 5th Session of the EMRIP therefore requests and recommends that the EMRIP members present "a follow up study on Indigenous Peoples Permanent Sovereignty over Land and Natural Resources" as their next study to the UN Human Rights Council.

Thank you.

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