

EMRIP Jose 258

Proposals to be Submitted to the Human Rights Council for Its Consideration and Approval

Aloha

We recognize the valuable contribution of the previous studies. We believe there are imminent issues facing indigenous peoples and EMRIP studies could provide a positive role to provide insight into the human rights of indigenous peoples and provide impetus for new directions to ensure dignity.

One of the most important topics on the global agenda is sustainable development. Many of us have been involved in the most recent Rio+20 earth summit, in just two short years, the decisions forged in Brazil with indigenous peoples participation created many new initiatives in the international field. However, there is little indigenous peoples engaged to shape the specific new international instruments and institutions.

The Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights has been fortunate to participate in New York while monitoring the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples process. There is the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development, the Sustainability 4 All meeting and the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. There was even the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly at UNEP's headquarters in Kenya. It is central that indigenous peoples participate to shape the conversation and create the new institutions to include an indigenous perspective rooted in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. There is also the first preliminary draft of a Global Sustainable Development Report. We call for a **Study on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Sustainable Development**.

We also call for a continuation of the **Study on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Natural Disaster Risk Reduction and Prevention and Preparedness Initiatives deepening the research in the section under Risk Factors specifically Climate Change**. We propose a continuation with focus on Climate Change Adaptation in Indigenous Communities Creating Positive Contributions to the Global Efforts. The study could share best practices of indigenous peoples from the Arctic to Asia to the Americas that are rooted in culture and provide good models that can be shared among indigenous peoples to survive the climate crisis. A study can be invaluable especially on the eve of the Paris Protocol with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

An important issue in our islands that has also been highlighted in various interventions on multiple agenda items and side events regarding right to food and nutrition. In Hawai'i, the indigenous peoples are concerned with production of GMO crops and had organized to create a local ordinance on the island of Kauai. In response, the 4 corporations sued the county council. In other indigenous communities, similar actions are taking place. We believe a **Study on Food Sovereignty** could be a positive contribution to assist indigenous peoples to understand the global context.

Related to that issue is the positive emergence of efforts regarding business and human rights at the UN Human Rights Council with the continuation of the Forum as well as Working Group on Business and Human Rights and the new initiative for a binding treaty. We call for a **Study on Promotion and Protection of Indigenous Peoples relating to Business and Human Rights**.

In the review of agenda items at this seventh session, we were aware of the increasing numbers of cases of Indigenous Human Rights Defenders. We believe a **Study Examining Role of Indigenous Human Rights Defenders** would be an important contribution to protect indigenous peoples in their communities and nations.

Another increase in international human rights law is the regional mechanisms. The regional human rights commissions and courts in Europe, the Americas and Africa are producing some important legal decisions that grow the jurisprudence regarding the human rights of indigenous peoples. There is also new efforts in the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, which is currently reviewing its terms of reference. We hope there will be one soon in the Pacific. We call for a **Study on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Regional Human Rights Mechanisms**.

Finally, based on our recent participation in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples we have noted the calling for greater improvement in the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through EMRIP by at least 8 states in the recent informal hearings. We call for a **Study on Potential Expansion of the Mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**.

The University of Hawaii is will be willing to assist through various programs and departments involved in human rights education in area of sustainable development, indigenous rights, and international law.

Maluhia Me Ka Pono