

Agenda item 6: Proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council
for its consideration and approval

INTERVENTION OF AOTEAROA INDIGENOUS RIGHTS TRUST

READ BY TRACEY CASTRO WHARE

1. Mr Chair, I have two proposals.
2. Firstly, I wish to lend my support to the proposal tabled during agenda item 4 by the Sami Council regarding a new research report for the Expert Mechanism. The proposal being that the Expert Mechanism builds on the study on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision making leaving behind consultation and instead focusing on the right to self determination, property rights and free, prior and informed consent. These three areas are of critical importance to indigenous peoples and their relationships with states. Research on these issues conducted in the inclusive and cooperative way in which the Expert Mechanism works would be beneficial and timely.
3. Secondly, I propose that the reports of the Expert Mechanism and in particular its research reports be promoted by the Human Rights Council to all fora of the United Nations as a practical step toward ensuring their continuing implementation and use. Given the Expert Mechanism is a relatively new body with the UN, such a step would also create greater awareness of the Expert Mechanism and encourage all parts of the UN from Treaty bodies to Special Procedures to consider the research reports of the Expert Mechanism and incorporate them in their work.
3. Thank you Mr Chair.