

**Statement by Albert K. Barume,
Chair-Rapporteur
Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
New York, 28 April 2017**

Madame Chair, honourable members of the Forum distinguished delegates,

Considering this at my first formal intervention at the UNPFII session allow me to congratulate you for the appointment as Chairperson of this session I welcome the new members of Forum and on behalf of all my other EMRIP colleagues, we look forward to working closely with you.

Madame Chair, as EMRIP member from Africa, I would like to focus this statement regarding the Outcome Document in Africa.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the presence and contributions of African States' delegates and a representative of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to this session. This is an illustration of the continent steady interest in the issue of indigenous peoples. As Chair of the EMRIP, I see similar trend of interest in indigenous peoples among African States' representatives in Geneva during EMRIP sessions. I thank particularly the Government of South Africa for its leadership role as Chair of the African Group in Geneva during the negotiation process of the EMRIP new mandate.

Madame Chairperson, Africa as a continent that has been active on the Outcome Document, since its adoption by the World Conference in 2014.

Let me illustrate this with three key examples.

First, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Working Group on indigenous peoples organized a regional seminar on the Outcome Document held in Yaoundé Cameroon in December 2015, with key note speakers, including Madame the Special Rapporteur on

indigenous peoples. I take this opportunity to thank Madame the Special Rapporteur for her visit and contribution to this workshop. This unique regional workshop brought together participants from several African Countries and led to what is now known as the "Yaoundé Declaration on the implementation in Africa of the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples", which declare among other "... work with governments to develop indicators which can measure the well-being, respect and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples when the 2030 Development Agenda is being implemented, their participation in implementing, monitoring this Agenda and reporting on it will be ensured"

The Second example Madame Chairperson is the on-going UNPFII project to assess legal and policy frameworks of few African countries and develop a tailored capacity building programme on indigenous peoples. This project is currently being implemented in Kenya and Namibia with full cooperation with both Governments. The outcomes of this project are likely to impact on policy reforms that both Governments are currently undertaking. There are also discussions underway for this initiative to be duplicated into other countries.

The African **third** example Madame Chairperson is an IFAD-supported policy dialogues on indigenous peoples in Africa. The initiative is being implemented in Tanzania and DR Congo, where various others partners including IWGIA, the World Bank, and OHCHR joined in partnership. In both cases, the initiative has consisted of linking the Outcome Document implementation to relevant on-going national initiatives. In DR Congo, those on-going relevant initiatives included a draft law on indigenous peoples under consideration in Parliament and a World Bank-initiated Dedicated Grant Mechanism for indigenous peoples. In Tanzania, diversified practices of consultation with indigenous peoples by various actors, including the private sector, and an advocacy programme on indigenous peoples' rights by the Tanzanian National human rights institution offered entry points for the dialogues.

What was unique about these dialogues is that they both discussed home-grown issues and initiatives that are relevant to the implementation of the Outcome Document.

Madame Chairperson, there are many processes and initiatives taking place in several States, which could be captured as part of the Outcome Document. I therefore recommend the UNPFII to take initiative aimed at

capturing and making most out of these entry points that are present in many countries.

Madame Chairperson, because I am speaking on the Outcome Document agenda item, let me inform you and this plenary that the implementation of OP 28 on the review of EMRIP mandate has now been completed and ready for being operationalised.

As strongly recommended by members States and indigenous peoples representative institutions during the negotiations process of this EMRIP new mandate, EMRIP look forward to implementing its new mandate in enhanced collaboration with the UNPFII and all its Experts, including at regional level.

A side event on EMRIP new mandate will be organised in this same room today at 4 pm, during which more details will be given. I invite all those interested in this EMRIP new mandate to participate.

I thank you Madame Chairperson