

**INFORMAL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE MOST APPROPRIATE MECHANISMS TO  
CONTINUE THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP  
ON INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS**

**Geneva, 6-7 December 2007**

Recommendations for Discussion of the Creation of an Expert Body on the Rights of Indigenous  
Peoples for the Human Rights Council, submitted by a group of Indigenous  
Organizations

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The views expressed in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the OHCHR or the United Nations.

**Recommendations for discussion of the creation of an expert body  
on the rights of Indigenous peoples for the Human Rights Council**

**Suggested preambular paragraphs for draft resolution:**

PP1 *Bearing in mind* paragraph 6 of the General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, which calls for the Human Rights Council to “assume, review and, where necessary, improve and rationalize all mandates, mechanisms, functions and responsibilities of the Commission on Human Rights in order to maintain a system of special procedures, **expert advice** and a complaint procedure”,

PP2 *Recalling* that the Human Rights Council institution-building text 18 June 2007 stated that the “Council will decide at its sixth session (First session of its Second Cycle) on the most **appropriate mechanisms to continue the work of the Working Group** on Indigenous Populations”,

PP3 *Recalling* that at its sixty-first session, the **General Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration** on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples establishing “minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world.”,

PP4 *Emphasizing* that the human rights of Indigenous peoples are relevant to almost all **mandates of the Human Rights Council** and require special attention, expertise and insights due to the **urgency and complexity of the situation facing indigenous peoples** worldwide,

PP5 *Acknowledging* the important work completed by the Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

**Mandate:**

The Human Rights Council:

1. Decides to establish an Expert Body on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:
  - a) to provide the Council with expert advice on Indigenous peoples’ and individuals’ human rights issues in relation to all the Council’s mandates,
  - b) to identify the best means to implement, develop and mainstream international standards that promote and protect the human rights of indigenous peoples;
  - c) to undertake studies pertaining indigenous peoples human rights at the request of the Council. Member states and Indigenous groups could present statements/case studies/papers on various best practices carried out toward the realization of the human rights of Indigenous peoples;
  - d) to cooperate, with a view to complement, with other relevant mechanisms on the rights of Indigenous peoples, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous people and other relevant special procedures, the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, the Treaty Bodies, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and national, regional human rights institutions and institutions of Indigenous peoples;

**Placement within the UN system:**

The Expert Body should be placed directly under the Human Rights Council and report annually to the Human Rights Council on its work. Further, it should provide advice to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous people, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and the Expert Advisory Committee.

**Composition:**

The Expert Body on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples would consist of six members, including a representative of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, the Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues or a member of the Permanent Forum designated by the Chair, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, and three Indigenous experts to be nominated following the same model as that of the Special Procedures.

**Terms of the members:**

The Indigenous experts would serve for a period of three years. They would be eligible for re-election once. The Chair of the Permanent Forum, the Special Rapporteur and the member of the Advisory Committee would serve as long as they hold their respective positions.

**Organization of work:**

The Expert Body on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples should determine its own methods of work.

The Expert Body would hold an annual meeting to feed into the work of the Council related to Indigenous peoples rights. The Expert Body could also organize panel discussions during the sessions of the Council for an exchange of views regarding the human rights of indigenous peoples under Agenda Item #3 of the Human Rights Council.

**Participation:**

Member States, United Nations bodies and organs, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council could participate as observers; organizations of indigenous people could equally participate as observers in accordance with the procedures that have been applied in the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Signatories to the document “**Recommendations for discussion of the creation of an expert body on the rights of Indigenous peoples for the Human Rights Council**”

**Organisation**

Organización Indígena Kus –Kurá Sociedad Civil – Costa Rica  
Centro de Cooperación Indígena (CECOIN), Colombia  
Saami Council

Indigenous Peoples from Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)  
Tin Hinan/ (IPACC), Burkina Faso  
Servicios del Pueblo Mixe (Mexico)  
Centro de Asistencia Legal para los Pueblos Indígenas (CEALP)- Panama  
Centro de Educación Ngobe-Bugle, Panamá  
Comisión de Juristas Indígenas, Argentina  
Grand Council of the Crees  
Na Koa Ikaika Kalahui Hawaii /Indigenous World Association  
Mainyoto Pastoralists Integrated Development Organisation (MPIDO), Kenya  
Cordillera Peoples Alliance (Philippines)  
Tebtebba Foundation (Philippines)  
Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

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