



EUROPEAN UNION
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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
45th session

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur
on the rights of indigenous peoples**

EU Intervention

24 September 2020

The European Union would like to express its appreciation for the work of the previous Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, and has the honor to welcome Mr. José Francisco Cali Tzay to the Human Rights Council.

The European Union shares the Special Rapporteur's concern about the lack of implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples as set out in the UNDRIP, the increasing violence against indigenous peoples, and the criminalization of acts of indigenous human rights defenders across the world. Furthermore, there is a need to protect and promote the rights of indigenous women, who face multiple and intersecting discrimination.

The EU will continue to support the Special Rapporteur's mandate in responding to situations of violations and abuses of indigenous peoples' human rights. It is important to have a strong and effective mandate and to ensure compliance with international human rights standards. The independence of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur must be respected, and the Special Rapporteur must be ensured access to any region or state.

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

In your view, what are the biggest challenges to ensuring that the rights of indigenous peoples are respected and protected, especially due to the covid-19 pandemic?

Thank you.