

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Seventh session – 7 to 11 July 2014

Item 4: Follow-up to thematic studies and advice
Suggested talking points for the Chair

- Welcome to all participants on behalf of EMRIP: indigenous peoples' representatives, Member States, NGOs, and others.
- It is my pleasure to chair this session on follow-up to thematic studies and advice today. I am overwhelmed with the warm greetings and kind words expressed yesterday during the opening session regarding my appointment as new member of the EMRIP. I thank you all with deep appreciation.
- As you are aware, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was established by the Human Rights Council in 2007, under resolution 6/36. Our mandate is to provide the Human Rights Council with thematic expertise, mainly in the form of studies and research on the rights of indigenous peoples.
- In addition to the current two studies, EMRIP has so far produced studies and advice on the following topics:
 - Lessons learned and challenges to achieve the right of indigenous peoples to education (2009)
 - Indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision making (2011)
 - The role of languages and culture in the promotion and protection of the rights and identity of indigenous peoples (2012)
 - Indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making, with a focus on extractive industries (2012)
 - Access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples (2013)
- At its 18th session, the Human Rights Council welcomed the practice adopted by the Expert Mechanism of devoting specific time to the discussion of updates relevant to past mandated studies, and recommended that this practice be adopted on a permanent basis.
- The studies and advice of the Expert Mechanism are meant to provide a better understanding of the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to propose concrete actions that States, indigenous peoples, civil society, international organizations, national human rights institutions and others can take in order to further its implementation.
- The Expert Mechanism's studies and advice place special emphasis on the participation of indigenous peoples themselves in decisions that affect them. The studies of the Expert Mechanism and its advice seek to advance the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples by clarifying the implications of key principles, such as self-determination and free, prior and informed consent, examining good practices and challenges in a broad array of areas pertaining to

indigenous peoples' rights, and suggesting measures that States and others can adopt at the level of laws, policies and programmes.

- We will now devote some time to this agenda item, and we are keen to hear from you regarding any updates you may have on the thematic areas of our previous studies, but also how you have used the Expert Mechanism's studies and advice in your work towards the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- It is our hope that the Expert Mechanism's studies become living documents that are used in your daily work and advocacy for the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, and this agenda item is an opportunity to share those experiences.
- We are very keen to hear from you how our studies have been used and how our advice has been applied, as well as any updates you may have on the thematic areas of our previous studies.
- This is also an opportunity to reflect on our previous work in light of the upcoming World Conference on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the newly published Compilation of Thematic Advice of the Expert Mechanism, which contains our first 5 sets of Advice and which we hope will become a useful tool. This publication will be formally launched at a side event today at lunchtime. We will have copies available in English and Spanish, with French and Russian versions due to be released in the coming months.
- We will now begin with the speakers' list for this item. I also encourage my fellow members of the Expert Mechanism to contribute with their reflections on our previous thematic studies.