

**11<sup>th</sup> session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

**Item 11: Proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council for its consideration and approval**

**Statement by Nordic and Baltic States  
12 July 2018**

[check against delivery]

Thank you chair,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Nordic and Baltic countries: Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden as well as my own country Denmark, together with Greenland.

We would wish to use this opportunity to highlight the importance of delivering on the commitment made by all Member States at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, in September 2014, to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant issues affecting them.

The consensus resolution adopted last fall by the General Assembly on this topic (71/321) ensured continued deliberations on this in partnership with Indigenous Peoples. This resolution and its encouragement to relevant United Nations bodies to facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in relevant meetings on issues affecting them was also welcomed by the Human Rights Council (36/14) last September. It is important to respect the framework provided by the GA resolution to enhance Indigenous Peoples' participation in UN fora. Moreover, all relevant UN Bodies should now follow up on this call for further efforts to facilitate participation. The UN must listen to voices of Indigenous Peoples.

We would like to thank the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) for the work it has done so far to promote the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in the work of the Human Rights Council. Last September, the Council welcomed the proposal made by EMRIP that further efforts be made to facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in the work of the Council.

Encouragement from and thematic expertise of the Expert Mechanism could further assist in taking the process forward and engaging in discussions on ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples at the HRC. How the meetings of the Expert Mechanism have been made open to the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations also serve as a good example.

The Human Rights Council could, as a first step, hold a panel discussion and an expert workshop on how to realize participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and

institutions in the Human Rights Council. Involvement of Indigenous Peoples from all regions of the world in the process would, of course, be important to advance this agenda.

We thank EMRIP for considering this important topic when making proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council for its consideration and approval.

Thank you chair.