



# General Assembly

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**Human Rights Council**  
**Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**  
**Fourth session**  
11–15 July 2011  
Item 2 of the provisional agenda  
**Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

## **Annotations to the provisional agenda**

**Note by the Secretariat\***

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\* Late submission.

1. Following the adoption of its resolutions 5/1 and 6/16, and in compliance with General Assembly resolution 60/251, the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 6/36, established the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as an advisory body to the Council. In accordance with Council resolution 6/36, the Expert Mechanism held its first, second and third annual sessions in 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively. The Expert Mechanism submitted the reports on those sessions to the Council at its tenth, twelfth and fifteenth sessions (A/HRC/10/56, A/HRC/12/32 and A/HRC/15/36).
2. In accordance with its resolution 9/7, the Human Rights Council requested the Expert Mechanism to undertake a study on lessons learned and challenges to achieve the implementation of the right of indigenous peoples to education. The study, which includes Expert Mechanism Advice No.1 (2009) on the rights of indigenous peoples to education, was submitted to the Council at its twelfth session (A/HRC/12/33).
3. At its twelfth session, the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 12/13, requested the Expert Mechanism to carry out a study on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making and to present a progress report to the Council at its fifteenth session, and a final study to the Council at its eighteenth session.
4. The Expert Mechanism submitted its progress report to the Human Rights Council at its fifteenth session. In its resolution 15/7, the Council welcomed the report and encouraged the Expert Mechanism to finalize the study in accordance with Council resolution 12/13, taking into account the discussions held at its third session, and requested it to give examples of good practices at different levels of decision-making. The Council also welcomed the practice adopted by the Expert Mechanism at its third session to devote specific time to discussion of past mandated thematic studies of Expert Mechanism.

### **Item 1. Election of officers**

5. Pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 60/251, the Human Rights Council applies the rules of procedure established for committees of the Assembly, as applicable, unless subsequently otherwise decided by the Assembly or the Council (A/520/Rev.15). On the election of officers, rule 103 of the rules of procedure states that each committee elects a Chairperson, one or more Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur.

### **Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

6. The Expert Mechanism will have before it the provisional agenda of its fourth session (A/HRC/EMRIP/2011/1) and the annotations contained herein relating to the items included in the provisional agenda. The Expert Mechanism will adopt the agenda, including any revisions it might wish to make.
7. In its resolution 6/36, the Council decided that the Expert Mechanism should meet once annually, for three days in its first year and thereafter for up to five days, and that the sessions may be a combination of open and private meetings. For its fourth session, the Expert Mechanism will meet for five days, from 11 to 15 July 2011.
8. Rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that each committee should, at the beginning of its session, adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item. Accordingly, the Expert Mechanism will have before it for consideration and approval a draft timetable prepared by the secretariat showing the order and distribution of meeting times for each agenda item of its programme of work for the fourth session.

### **Item 3. Follow-up to thematic studies and advice**

9. As indicated in the provisional agenda annexed to the report on its third session (A/HRC/15/36), the Expert Mechanism will devote an agenda item to follow-up to thematic studies and advice. The practice of the Expert Mechanism to devote specific time to discussion on follow-up to thematic studies and advice was welcomed by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 15/7, in which it also encouraged States to participate in those discussions.

10. The agenda item will provide the opportunity for the Expert Mechanism to consider the follow-up to its report on the study on lessons learned and challenges to achieve the right of indigenous peoples to education and its Advice No. 1 on the rights of indigenous peoples to education.

### **Item 4. Study on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making**

11. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 12/13 and 15/7, the Expert Mechanism undertook a study on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making, including an analysis of examples of good practices at different levels of decision-making. To contribute to the drafting of the final report on the study, to be submitted to the Council at its eighteenth session, and following the practice of the first study (A/HRC/12/33) and the progress report on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making (A/HRC/15/35), the Expert Mechanism sent out a call for submissions on the topic of the study, especially with regard to examples of good practices, and organized a two-day technical expert workshop on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making in Geneva, on 9 and 10 March 2011.

12. The agenda item will provide an opportunity for comments and suggestions on the final report on the study on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making. The Expert Mechanism will subsequently complete the final version of the final report and submit it to the Human Rights Council at its eighteenth session.

### **Item 5. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

13. In its resolution 6/36, the Human Rights Council recalled that, at its sixty-first session, the General Assembly adopted, in its resolution 61/295, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In the report of the Expert Mechanism on its first session (A/HRC/10/56), it was stressed that the Declaration was a key human rights instrument on the rights of indigenous peoples and constituted a part of the framework for the work of the Mechanism.

14. The agenda item will provide an opportunity for a general discussion on the Declaration. The general discussion will focus on the use of the Declaration to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples.

### **Item 6. Proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council for its consideration and approval**

15. As stated by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 6/36, the Expert Mechanism may make proposals to the Council for its consideration and approval, within the scope of

its work as set out by the Council. This may include proposals on how its thematic expertise could assist the Council in the implementation of its mandate and mechanisms.

**Item 7. Adoption of the report**

16. The Expert Mechanism will adopt its report on the fourth session for submission to the Human Rights Council.

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