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Human Rights Council

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Sixth session

8–12 July 2013

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Annotated provisional agenda*

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

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.

1. Election of officers

Pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 60/251, the Human Rights Council applies the rules of procedure established for committees of the General 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.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Expert Mechanism will have before it the provisional agenda of the sixth session (A/HRC/EMRIP/2013/1) 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.

In its resolution 6/36, the Human Rights Council determined that the Expert Mechanism should meet once annually, for three days in its first year and thereafter for up to five days,

* Late submission.

and that the sessions may be a combination of open and private meetings. For its sixth session, the Expert Mechanism will meet for five days, from 8 to 12 July 2013.

Rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that each committee should, at the beginning of the 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 sixth session.

3. World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

In its resolution 21/24, the Human Rights Council welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolutions 65/198 and 66/296 in relation to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and recommended that the studies and advice of the Expert Mechanism be considered in the formulation of the agendas and preparatory processes.

The present agenda item will enable the Expert Mechanism and observers at its the sixth session to examine and discuss the World Conference.

4. Follow-up to thematic studies and advice

At its eighteenth 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 thematic studies of the Expert Mechanism, and recommended that it should adopt this practice on a permanent basis, while encouraging States to continue to participate in and contribute to these discussions.

The agenda item will provide the Expert Mechanism with the opportunity to consider follow-up to its previous studies.

5. Study on access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples

In its resolution 21/24, the Human Rights Council requested the Expert Mechanism to prepare a study on access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, and to present it to the Council at its twenty-fourth session.

Accordingly, the Expert Mechanism prepared a study on access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples (A/HRC/EMRIP/2012/2). To contribute to the study, and following the practice associated with its previous studies, the Expert Mechanism sent out a call for relevant submissions and examined the issue in greater detail at an associated expert seminar.

The agenda item will provide experts and observers with an opportunity to make comments and suggestions on the draft study on access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples. The Expert Mechanism will subsequently complete the final version of the study and submit it to the Council at its twenty-fourth session.

6. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

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 Expert Mechanism.

In its resolution 21/24, the Human Rights Council requested the Expert Mechanism to continue to undertake, with the assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, a questionnaire survey to seek the views of States and of indigenous peoples on best practices with regard to possible appropriate measures and implementation strategies to attain the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The results of that questionnaire have been compiled by the Expert Mechanism in a draft report (A/HRC/EMRIP/2013/3).

The present agenda item will provide the Expert Mechanism with an opportunity to hold a general discussion on the Declaration, focused on the use of the Declaration to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples, and a discussion of the results of the questionnaire to seek the views of States and indigenous peoples on best practices with regard to possible appropriate measures and implementation strategies to attain the goals of the Declaration, with a view to finalizing the relevant report for presentation to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session.

The agenda item will also include the holding of a panel discussion and interactive dialogue involving the Expert Mechanism, a representative of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, representatives of regional human rights mechanisms and observers on the coordination of their efforts to promote the implementation of the Declaration.

7. Proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council for its consideration and approval

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.

8. Adoption of the report

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