

16th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Item 11: Enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations

(will be broadcast live and archived on <http://webtv.un.org>)

CONCEPT NOTE

Date and venue: **Wednesday 19 July 2023, 10h00 - 12h00, Palais des Nations, Room XVII, Geneva**

(will be broadcast live and archived on <http://webtv.un.org>)

Objectives:

- The Human Rights Council has welcomed the Expert Mechanism's proposal regarding further efforts to facilitate the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in the work of the Council and has encouraged the Expert Mechanism to continue its discussions on this matter.
- At its intersessional meeting held in Geneva in December 2022, the Expert Mechanism decided to contribute to the process that had begun with a commitment made by Member States during the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014 to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, by providing a space for dialogue between Indigenous Peoples, Member States and other stakeholders during its 16th session, as it has been the practice during the past three EMRIP sessions.

Chair **EMRIP member (5 min)**

Panellists:

- **IPs Representative (7 min)**
- **IPs Representative (7 min)**
- **Member State (7 min)**
- **Member State (7 min)**
- **Member State (7 min)**

BACKGROUND

- On 8 September 2017, the General Assembly adopted resolution 71/321 entitled “Enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples’ representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them.” This resolution is a result of a process that began with a commitment by Member States during the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014, to consider ways to enable the participation of Indigenous Peoples’ representatives and institutions in meetings of the relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them.¹ On 27 July 2020, the Secretary-General issued a report on achievements, analysis and concrete recommendations on the possible further measures necessary to enable the participation of Indigenous Peoples in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them.²
- On 15 July 2019, the Human Rights Council organized an intersessional interactive dialogue³ during the 12th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to examine ways to enhance Indigenous Peoples’ participation in meetings of the Council affecting them⁴. These meetings include but are not limited to, the annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of Indigenous Peoples⁵ and the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, both of which traditionally take place during the September sessions of the Council.
- In its resolution 42/19 of 8 October 2019, the Human Rights Council decided to organize another intersessional interactive dialogue in the form of a roundtable to follow up on the dialogue that took place on 15 July 2019.⁶ The intersessional roundtable was held virtually on 16 July 2021, with an aim to examine ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples’ representatives and institutions in meetings of the Human Rights Council on issues affecting them, and to facilitate dialogue between Indigenous Peoples’ representatives and States to that end.
- The Human Rights Council held its annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of Indigenous Peoples on 28 September 2021. It focused on the human rights of Indigenous Peoples facing

¹ A/RES/69/2

² A/75/255

³ A/HRC/44/35

⁴ Pursuant to resolution 39/13 of 28 September 2018.

⁵ Human Rights Council resolution 18/8

⁶ Pursuant to resolution 45/12 of 6 October 2020

the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, with a special focus on the right to participation. Participants called on States to reiterate their commitment to continue working together to remove barriers to full participation. Some States also noted that it was essential to ensure that Indigenous Peoples were able to participate in the Human Rights Council. They expressed commitment to supporting Indigenous Peoples in their call to establish a unique category for their participation in the United Nations system and urged the Council to request the organization of a workshop to bring together Indigenous Peoples and States to consider options for enhancing Indigenous participation in the Council.

- The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at its fifteenth session on 7 July 2022, held an interactive dialogue under item 11 of the agenda to enhance the participation of the representatives and institutions of Indigenous Peoples in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them.
- Pursuant to the Human Rights Council resolution 48/11⁷, OHCHR organized the expert workshop on possible ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Human Rights Council held from 21 to 24 November 2022. The workshop's discussions focused on the venues of participation; participation modalities; selection criteria; and selection mechanisms.
- The Expert Mechanism made a written contribution to the Expert workshop on possible way to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Human Rights Council.⁸
- The summary report reflected key recommendations resulting from the discussions held during the four days.⁹

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⁷ A/HRC/RES/48/11

⁸ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2022/call-submission-written-contribution-expert-workshop-possible-ways-enhance>

⁹ A/HRC/53/44