

FACT SHEET ON THE EXPERT MECHANISM ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES EMRIP15



1. What the Expert Mechanism is

- The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) is a **subsidiary body of the United Nations' Human Rights Council (HRC)**. The HRC was established in 2006 by the UN General Assembly and is the main UN intergovernmental body dealing with human rights. The Human Rights Council created EMRIP in 2007 under HRC Resolution 6/36.
- EMRIP is composed of **7 independent experts** of indigenous origin if possible, who are appointed for a period of three years, renewable once, with the aim of reflecting the 7 sociocultural indigenous regions defined by the permanent court on the matters of indigenous peoples (Africa; Asia; Central and South America and the Caribbean; the Arctic; North America; the Pacific; and Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia and Transcaucasia).
- The session takes place for **one week**, usually in July, **once a year**. These sessions take place in **Geneva** at the United Nations' Palais des Nations.

2. What the Expert Mechanism does

EMRIP provides indigenous-based expertise to the HRC. EMRIP principally carries out research work and studies, which are based on information provided by all observers, including representatives of Indigenous Peoples as well as those of States. It proposes study themes and recommendations for review and approval by the HRC. **It is therefore very important that indigenous organizations respond to information requests from EMRIP experts**, which can be found on EMRIP's web pages: <http://bit.ly/expert-01E>. Since 2017, under its new mandate, EMRIP carries out technical cooperation and country engagement mission.

- In accordance with Article 42 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), EMRIP also has the mandate to “promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration”.
- **What the Expert Mechanism does not do:** It cannot receive or pass on complaints or denunciations. Country situations can fall within the mandates of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (SRRIP) and other Special Rapporteurs, UN human rights treaty bodies, or the Universal Periodic Review mechanism (UPR).

3. EMRIP mandate since 2017

In September 2016, the Human Rights Council adopted Resolution 33/25 and modified the mandate of the Expert Mechanism. The purpose of the mandate of the EMRIP is to provide technical advice on the rights of indigenous peoples, as pronounced in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to the Human Rights Council, and to provide support to the Member States that request it, for the purposes of achieving the goals pronounced in the Declaration for the promotion, protection and fulfillment of the rights of indigenous peoples (Art. 1). For more information, visit:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/EMRIP/Pages/Reviewofthemandate.aspx>, and
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/EMRIP/Pages/RequestsUnderNewMandate.aspx>.

4. Achievements of the Expert Mechanism

- Study on the right of indigenous peoples to education (2008-2009)
- Study on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making (2010-2011)
- Study on the role of languages and culture (2011-2012)
- Study on access to justice (2012-2013)
- Study on disaster risk reduction (2013-2014)
- Study on the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples with respect to their cultural heritage (2014-2015)
- Study on the right to health and indigenous peoples with a focus on children and youth (2015-2016)
- Study on good practices and challenges in business and in access to financial services by indigenous peoples (2017)
- Study on free, prior and informed consent (2018)
- Study on indigenous peoples' rights in the context of borders, migration and displacement (2019)
- Right to land study (2020)
- Study on the Rights of the Indigenous Child (2021)

These studies may be found in all six official languages of the United Nations, on the EMRIP web pages on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Please visit: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsiidiaries/expert-mechanism-on-indigenous-peoples/annual-reports>

5. How to participate in EMRIP sessions

Those who can register to participate in EMRIP sessions are as follows:

- representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);
- representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations;
- representatives of NGOs not in consultative status with ECOSOC;
- academics and experts on Indigenous Peoples;
- National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs).

For **practical information** concerning pre-registration, accreditation, obtaining badges, and grants to cover travel costs, please visit: <http://bit.ly/EMRIP-15thsession>

Persons with disabilities participating in EMRIP can find accessibility information in the "Accessibility guide to the Human Rights Council for persons with disabilities", available at <http://bit.ly/HRCAccessibilityGuide> and also <http://bit.ly/HRC-Persons-with-disabilities>.

6. Signing up to make an oral statement on an agenda item

- During each session, the EMRIP discusses a given list of items that are on its **agenda**.
- **Registered participants at EMRIP sessions can request to make oral statements.**
- To know when different agenda items will be discussed, you can look at the programme of work of the current session (<https://bit.ly/PW-emrip15>)
- The Secretariat usually sets a **registration deadline** for oral statements on each agenda item, and the Chairperson announces this during the session. Time slots to sign up for the speakers' list will also be posted on the bulletin board of room XIX and next to the registration desk (close to the podium on the right)
- **Registration:** Once you arrive at the session, as soon as possible, have your name registered on the list of speakers by handing in the speakers' list registration form (available at the entry of room XIX) and bring 17 copies of your statement for interpreters and conference service staff at the desk of the conference room officer, in the meeting room XIX.
- Don't forget to present your badge (as a representative of your organization) and to indicate the agenda item on which you wish to make a statement.

- **Confirm** that you are on the list. When the list of speakers for the chosen agenda item is posted in the meeting room, check that your name appears there and note where on the list your name appears, in order to be prepared when you are given the floor during the meeting.
- Participants attending remotely will receive an e-mail with instructions.

7. Delivering your oral statement

- When your name is called by the Chairperson during the session, raise your hand, turn on the microphone, state your name and read your statement, while carefully staying within your time limit. **Speak slowly** to allow for good interpretation.
- Speaking time will be 3 minutes. The time may be reduced to 2 minutes at the discretion of the Chair depending on the number of registrations on the speakers' list.

8. Tips for making an oral statement

Attention: If you are not in the room when the Chairperson calls on you, you lose your speaking time. Please be at your place well in advance of your assigned time, as prior speakers could forfeit their time, which would move up your turn.

- **Contents of the statement:** A common practice is to give the name of your organization, brief greetings (if you wish to include them), explain the situation and make recommendations. Above all, it is important that you get **straight to the point** and provide exact and verified information.
- **Practice in advance** by reading your statement aloud, sticking to your time limit and reading slowly to allow for interpretation. Plan which parts you could cut in case the time limit must be reduced, instead of planning to speak more quickly at the end.
- Be sure to use **diplomatic and non-abusive language**, for example, by using the official terminology of any country names cited in your statement.

9. Docip technical support throughout the sessions of the Expert Mechanism

Docip offers the following services to all indigenous delegates throughout the conference:

- translation of texts from and to English, Spanish, French and Russian. Requests for translation must be submitted via that form : <https://bit.ly/TRAD-EMRIP15>.
- interpretation of the Indigenous Caucus meeting and side events (EN/ES/FR/RU). Requests for interpretation must be submitted via that form: <https://bit.ly/INT-EMRIP15>
- photocopies and access to internet, computers and printers (Room 1058-60).
- publication of your statements on its website, www.docip.org/en.
- strategic support to indigenous delegates interested in UN and EU mechanisms by supporting documentation research, legal research, networking with other delegates or organizations, follow up on treaty bodies and the UPR, or by discussing your communication to the SRRIP or other UN bodies regarding the rights of Indigenous Peoples. To request these services, contact Mr. Mathias Wuidar at: mathias.wuidar@docip.org
- **The Docip technical secretariat office is located in the E-building of Palais des Nations;** the room number is 1058-60. Map of the Palais des Nations: <https://bit.ly/MAP-DOCIP-1058-60-B-E>
-

10. Indigenous Caucus meetings: participation is strongly recommended

The Indigenous Caucus meetings are open to all indigenous delegations present at EMRIP. They represent a unique opportunity for indigenous delegates to meet for exchange of information and experiences. During the Indigenous Caucus meetings **joint statements, positions and recommendations** are developed that are often taken into consideration by EMRIP.

An Indigenous Caucus meeting will be held on Sunday, 3 July, at 10:00 a.m. at the Ethnographical Museum of Geneva (MEG), Bd Carl-Vogt 65, 1205 Genève, Switzerland. Registration via that form: <https://bit.ly/Caucus-emrip15>, is mandatory.

During the session such Caucus meetings can also be organized in the evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. or in the morning from 9:00 a.m. to 10 a.m. To learn more about these meetings, please contact the Docip technical secretariat. The Indigenous Caucus meetings are interpreted in English, Spanish, French and Russian by Docip. To schedule interpretation for such meeting, please contact Mrs. Johanna Massa from the Docip technical secretariat in advance at: johanna.massa@docip.org. Kindly note that this year, from Monday to Friday, all the meetings must be organized virtually. **The discussions held during the Caucus meetings are confidential.**

11. Cultural and side events

They take place between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. They may be organized by indigenous delegations, international organizations, NGOs, etc. A list of side events is distributed at the beginning of the session by the EMRIP Secretariat and may also be found at the Docip technical secretariat office.

During this year's session, side events will be held remotely only. To propose a side event, please contact the Expert Mechanism at ohchr-expertmechanism@un.org with the following information:

Title:

Organization:

Date/Time:

Language:

Link (when available):

No rooms will be available for side-events inside the UN premises. External conference rooms can be rented.

12. Meetings with other key actors on indigenous issues on the sidelines of EMRIP sessions

The EMRIP sessions present an opportunity to make an appointment with the **Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (SRRIP)**, whose mandate is to “gather information and communications on violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous populations, to formulate recommendations and to work in close relation with other special rapporteurs, experts, etc.” To have an opportunity to meet with the Special Rapporteur, you must:

- be registered for the session
- request a meeting well in advance, providing your name, and
- send/bring him written information regarding matters that fall within his mandate, including allegations of human rights violations.

Priority will be given to delegates who have sent their request and their information to indigenous@ohchr.org during the time frames indicated on the OHCHR website. For more information on the Special Rapporteur and how to communicate information to him, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1LsykvP> and <http://bit.ly/2FAs4aU>.

You can also request **meetings with other key actors**, such as:

- representatives of countries' permanent missions to the UN in Geneva: <http://bit.ly/missions-01E>
- OHCHR staff dealing with different thematic or country issues of concern to you: <http://bit.ly/office-01E>
- OHCHR-based secretariats of the different UN human rights treaty bodies: <http://bit.ly/treatybodies-01E>
- other UN agencies present in Geneva, for example:
 - the World Health Organization (WHO): <https://bit.ly/WHO-01>
 - Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS): <http://bit.ly/un aids-01E>
 - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): <https://bit.ly/UNDP-01>
 - World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO): <http://bit.ly/WIPO-01E>
 - International Labour Organisation (ILO): <http://bit.ly/labour-01E>.

13. Advice for effective and efficient participation at EMRIP

- **Allow for several weeks in advance** to handle all of the formalities (visas) and administrative procedures, registration and logistics required to participate in EMRIP sessions.

- **Study the agenda, the programme of work** and the documents related to the session, all of which are available on the EMRIP web pages on the OHCHR website.
- **Prepare your oral statement well** and practice it in advance.
- **Participate actively in the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus meetings and side events, sessions and networking opportunities** with other representatives of Indigenous Peoples, NGOs and key actors on indigenous issues.
- Finally, **check the content of the previous session reports.**

For more information about the Expert Mechanism, visit: <http://bit.ly/expert-01E>

About Docip: With offices in Geneva and Brussels, Docip is a Swiss foundation that has worked with Indigenous Peoples from all over the world since 1978 by facilitating their access to the international system. Docip conducts its activities following the principles of impartiality, neutrality, collegiality and non-interference. We respect the right to self-determination of Indigenous Peoples.

Email: secretariat@docip.org

Website: <http://www.docip.org/en>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/docip.org/>

Twitter: [@Docip_en](https://twitter.com/docip_en)

Docip/ JM/06.2022