

EXPERT MECHANISM ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (EMRIP)



Factsheet

1. What is the Expert Mechanism?

- 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 the EMRIP in 2007 under the HRC Resolution 6/36.
- The EMRIP is composed of **7 independent experts**, if possible of Indigenous origin, who are appointed for a period of three years, renewable once, with the aim of reflecting the 7 sociocultural Indigenous regions defined by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (Africa; Asia; Central and South America and the Caribbean; the Arctic; Central and Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; North America; and the Pacific).
- The session is held **annually** for **a week**, usually in July, at the United Nations' Palais des Nations in **Geneva**.
- The Expert Mechanism's mandate was revised in 2016. See section 3.

2. What does the Expert Mechanism do?

The Expert Mechanism provides Indigenous-based expertise to the HRC. The Expert Mechanism principally carries out **research work and studies**, which are based on information provided by all observers, including Indigenous Peoples' or States' representatives. It suggests **study themes and recommendations** for review and approval by the HRC. **It is therefore very important that Indigenous organizations provide written reports to respond to EMRIP experts' calls for inputs**, calls that can be found on the EMRIP's website: <http://bit.ly/expert-01E>. Since 2017, under its new mandate, the Expert Mechanism carries out technical cooperation and country engagement activities, including country missions.

- In accordance with Article 42 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), The Expert Mechanism 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 may fall within the mandate(s) of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (SRIP) and/or other Special Rapporteurs, UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies, or the Universal Periodic Review mechanism (UPR).

3. New 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 new EMRIP mandate is to provide **technical advice** on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, as indicated 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 asserted 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).
- Report on the repatriation of ceremonial objects, human remains, and intangible cultural heritage report (2020).
- Study on the right to land (2020).
- Report on the Right to Self-Determination (2021).
- Study on the Rights of the Indigenous Child (2021).
- Study on treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, between Indigenous Peoples and States, including peace accords and reconciliation initiatives, and their constitutional recognition (2022).

These studies may be found in all six official languages of the United Nations, on the EMRIP and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) websites. Please visit:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsidiaries/expert-mechanism-on-indigenous-peoples/annual-reports>

5. How do I participate in EMRIP sessions?

The following can register to participate in EMRIP sessions:

- Non-governmental organizations' (NGOs) representatives with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) consultative status.
- NGOs' representatives without ECOSOC consultative status.
- Indigenous Peoples organizations' representatives without ECOSOC consultative status.
- Academics and experts on the rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs).

For information on pre-registration, obtaining temporary UN passes, organizing side-events, or on grants to cover travel costs, please visit: <http://bit.ly/440kkWx>

For information on visas, hotel accommodations, costs, please visit CAGI's website on "visiting delegates" <https://bit.ly/3JeSLRd> (only available in English and French).

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

6. How do I sign up to make an oral statement on an agenda item?

- During each session, the Expert Mechanism discusses a given list of items that are on its agenda.
- Registered participants at the EMRIP sessions can make oral statements.
- To learn when a particular agenda item will be discussed, you can check the programme of work of the current session, available in advance on the EMRIP section of OHCHR's website: <https://bit.ly/440kkWx>.
- The Secretariat usually sets a registration deadline for oral statements on each agenda item, which the Chairperson announces during the session. If you miss the announcement, you can contact the Secretariat of the Expert Mechanism.

- Registration: Register on the speakers' list as soon as you arrive at the session, by presenting your badge (as a representative of your organization) at the desk of the EMRIP Secretariat in the conference room. Don't forget to specify 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 conference room, check that your name is listed, and note where on the list it appears to be prepared when you are given the floor during the meeting.

7. Delivering an oral statement

- Before making a statement during the conference, you may be asked to provide **copies of your statement** and to give them to the conference room officer for distribution to interpreters and other organizations. You could also **make a copy and give it to Docip, or email it to documentation@docip.org**. Docip collects all statements made, for publication on its web/archive: <https://bit.ly/3J7YUhW>
- Alternatively, you may be asked to email your statements in advance to estatements@un.org. Statements sent to this address will then be published in the United Nations' Journal: <https://journal.un.org/en/geneva/all/2023-06-13>
- 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 (usually 3 minutes or less). Speak slowly enough to allow interpretation.

8. Tips to make an oral statement

Important: If you are not in the room when the Chairperson gives you the floor, you will lose your speaking time. Please be seated 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 you are facing, and make 1 to 3 concise recommendations. 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 interpretation. Plan ahead which parts you could cut in case your speaking time is reduced, instead of speaking faster 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.
- If you are speaking for the first time, common courtesy suggests that you thank the Chair, as well as the Voluntary Fund (if you are receiving UNVF financial support for your participation at the EMRIP) for their work and contributions.

9. Indigenous Caucus sessions: participation is strongly recommended

The Indigenous Caucus is open to all Indigenous delegations present at the EMRIP. The Caucus represents a unique opportunity to Indigenous delegates to meet and share information and experiences. During the Caucus sessions, **joint statements and recommendations** are put together as to agenda items of the EMRIP session or other topics. The Indigenous Caucus is usually held the **weekend before the EMRIP**.

During the rest of the week, additional meetings can be held in the mornings from 09:00/10:00 and/or in the evenings from 18:00–20:00. To learn more about these meetings, please contact the Docip technical secretariat. Docip provides interpretation for these meetings in English, Spanish, French and Russian. To schedule interpretation, please contact Docip technical secretariat at services@docip.org

Please note that discussions held during the Caucus sessions are confidential.

10. Cultural and side events at the UN

They usually take place between 1:15 and 2:45 p.m. throughout the week. 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 can also be found at Docip's office. It will also include side events taking place outside of the UN.** Due to the limited availability of rooms, an average of two to three lunch-time events can usually take place each day.

The Expert Mechanism encourages the organization of lunch-time events that specifically contribute to its mandate and the agenda of the session. To organize side events, it is necessary to register in advance of the session by emailing the EMRIP Secretariat at: ohchr-expertmechanism@un.org

Please, include the following data in your request:

- Title of the event.
- Name(s) of the organizer(s).
- Purpose of your proposed lunchtime event.
- Relationship to the session's agenda.
- Language of the event.
- Whether interpretation will be provided
- Preferred day for the lunchtime event.

Decisions by the secretariat on lunch-time events – including day and room – will be final. Relevant factors include the order in which the applications are received and their link to the agenda of the session.

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

The EMRIP sessions are an opportunity to make an appointment with the **Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (SRIP)** who will be present during the conference and 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 meet with the Special Rapporteur, you have to:

- be registered for the session;
- request a meeting well in advance, providing your name; and
- provide him with 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 within the time limit indicated on the OHCHR website, information that is also shared by Docip.
- For more information on the Special Rapporteur and how to share information with her/him, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1LsykvP> and <http://bit.ly/2FAs4aU>.

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

1. Representatives of countries' permanent missions to the UN in Geneva: <http://bit.ly/missions-01E>
2. OHCHR staff dealing with various thematic or country issues of concern to you: <http://bit.ly/office-01E>
3. OHCHR-based secretariats of the various UN human rights treaty bodies: <http://bit.ly/treatybodies-01E>
4. Other UN agencies present in Geneva, for example:
 - World Health Organization (WHO): <https://bit.ly/42D0pLW>
 - Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS): <http://bit.ly/unaid-01E>
 - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): <https://bit.ly/43DsS51>
 - World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO): <http://bit.ly/WIPO-01E>
 - International Labour Organization (ILO): <http://bit.ly/labour-01E>

13. Advice for effective participation in the EMRIP

- Plan several weeks in advance of the EMRIP the handling of all the administrative procedures and formalities (such as visas, registration and logistics) required to participate in the Permanent Forum.
- Study the agenda, the programme of work and the documents related to the session, all of which are available on the EMRIP section of the OHCHR website.
- Prepare your oral statement well and practice in advance.
- Participate actively in the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus meetings and side events, sessions and networking opportunities with other Indigenous representatives, NGOs and key actors on Indigenous issues.
- Check the content of the previous session reports to ensure that your recommendation has been taken into account. The reports are published a few months after the sessions.
- Sign up for our newsletter and follow us on Facebook and X!

For more information about the Expert Mechanism, visit: <http://bit.ly/expert-01E> and <https://bit.ly/440kkWx>

9. Docip's support during the EMRIP

Docip offers the following services to all Indigenous Peoples' delegates throughout the conference:

Docip's office at the UNOG building

The Docip technical secretariat office is usually located in Building E of the Palais des Nations; the room number, once confirmed, will be announced in advance. A Map of the Palais des Nations: <https://bit.ly/43UZ04z>

Translation and Interpretation

In line with its primary mission, which is to ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous representatives in United Nations conferences and at other events dealing with issues affecting them, Docip offers interpretation services in four languages: English (EN), Spanish (SP), French (FR) and Russian (RU). Docip adopts an equitable approach and provides rates of compensation for interpreters depending on the financial means of each organization.

- **Document translation request:** <https://bit.ly/TRANSLATIONS-UNPFII23>
- **Interpretation request of caucus sessions and informal meetings:** services@docip.org
- **Interpretation request for your Side Event:** <https://bit.ly/INTERPRETATIONS-UNPFII23>

New service offered: Proofreading of Statements

If you would like some assistance with proofreading your statement (spelling, grammar, linguistic clarity, etc.), please send your request to: translation@docip.org

Advocacy Support

Docip provides legal and advocacy support to Indigenous delegates on UN and EU mechanisms and procedures (legislative process, civil society consultations, calls for proposals, etc.) through services including but not limited to:

- Legal and advocacy actions to be taken,
- Accessing key actors (UN agencies, Permanent Missions, experts, delegates and organizations) as well as key elements of UN/EU agendas,
- Networking,
- Legal review of statements/communications/reports,
- Raising awareness of EU decision-making members to involve them in Indigenous issues in order to make these issues an EU priority.

To request legal and advocacy support, please contact our Advocacy Officers at advice@docip.org or set up an in-person meeting at Docip's office.

Information Service

You can find timely information on the session, documents, side events, etc. on **Docip's website**: <https://bit.ly/docip-pfii23-en>, **Facebook**: [@docip.org](https://www.facebook.com/docip.org), **X**: [@docip_en](https://twitter.com/docip_en), **LinkedIn**: [@docip](https://www.linkedin.com/company/docip)

For more information contact us at: info@docip.org

Documentation Centre

Docip collects all the statements delivered by Indigenous delegates during the UNPFII which are then are published on our website: http://bit.ly/statements_UNPFII

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

Email: secretariat@docip.org

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

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

X: https://twitter.com/docip_en (@Docip_en)

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