

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples EMRIP



18th Session

Geneva, 14-18 July 2025

Information Guide

Outline

This document is intended to provide an overview of the 18th EMRIP session to all Indigenous delegates. It summarizes the most relevant general information on the Expert Mechanism and provides specific practical information about the current session as well as Docip's services. Additionally, a list of useful documents and contacts may be found at the end of the guide.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mandate

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** through HRC resolution 6/36. The EMRIP meets once a year in Geneva for five days, usually in July.

According to its mandate, the EMRIP:

- **Provides the Human Rights Council with expertise and advice** on the rights of Indigenous Peoples as set out in the UNDRIP; and
- Assists Member States, upon request, in **achieving the ends of the Declaration** through the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The EMRIP's methods of work with respect to country engagement activities are set out on page 6.

The **Expert Mechanism is one of three UN bodies** that is mandated to deal specifically with Indigenous Peoples' issues. The others are the **United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues** (<http://bit.ly/UNPFII-UN-body>) and the **Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** (<http://bit.ly/SPRIP-UN-body>).

Provisional Agenda of the 18th Session of the EMRIP¹

1. **Election** of officers.
2. **Adoption** of the **agenda** and organization of work.
3. **Study** and advice on the right of Indigenous Peoples to **data**, including **data collection and disaggregation**.
4. **Coordination** meeting of United Nations Indigenous rights mechanisms.
5. **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**.
6. **Country** engagement.
7. **International Decade of Indigenous Languages**.
8. **Panel discussion on the role of national and regional human rights institutions in achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**.
9. **Enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations**.
10. **Future work of the Expert Mechanism**, including follow-up to recommendations made in previous studies and advice.
11. **Proposals** to be submitted to the Human Rights Council for its consideration and approval.
12. **Adoption** of studies and reports

The Secretariat has provided documents addressing the following **topics**:

Concept note on Item 7: International decade of Indigenous languages (2022-2032)

Concept note on Item 8: Panel discussion on the role of national and regional human rights institutions in achieving the ends of the Declaration

Concept note on Item 8: Panel on enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations

Right of Indigenous Peoples to data, including with regard to data collection and disaggregation - Draft study by the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Efforts to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their traditional economies - Report of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

For more detailed information on the 18th session of the EMRIP, visit:
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/sessions/2025/18th-session-expert-mechanism-rights-indigenous-peoples>

¹ The official agenda of the UN, available at: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/EMRIP/2025/1>

Members of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The EMRIP is composed of **7 independent experts**, one from each of the 7 Indigenous socio-cultural regions, who are named for a term of 3 years, renewable once.

The regions are 1) Africa; 2) Asia; 3) Central and South America, and the Caribbean; 4) the Arctic; 5) Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia, and Transcaucasia; 6) North America; and 7) the Pacific.

Members (2023-2024)	Members (2024-2027)
Ms. Sheryl LIGHTFOOT (Canada) – Co-chair	Ms. Antonina GORBUNOVA (Russian Federation)
Ms. Antonina GORBUNOVA (Russian Federation) – Co-chair	Ms. Anexa Brendalee ALFRED CUNNINGHAM (Nicaragua)
Mr. Binota Moy DHAMAI (Bangladesh)	Ms. Valmaine TOKI (New Zealand)
Ms. Margaret LOKAWA (Uganda)	Mr. Binota Moy DHAMAI (Bangladesh)
Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorough (USA)	Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorough (United States of America)
Ms. Anexa Brendalee ALFRED CUNNINGHAM (Nicaragua)	Ms. Sheryl LIGHTFOOT (Canada)
Ms. Valmaine TOKI (New Zealand)	Mr. Ojot Miru OJULU (Ethiopia)

The **Chair** of the EMRIP is nominated annually at the start of the session. If you wish to get in touch with the Chair or with the EMRIP members, contact the EMRIP Secretariat at: ohchr-expertmechanism@un.org.

Current membership of the Human Rights Council

African States (13)		Latin American and Caribbean States (8)	
Algeria	(2025)	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	(2027)
Benin	(2027)	Brazil	(2026)
Burundi	(2026)	Chile	(2025)
Côte d'Ivoire	(2026)	Colombia	(2027)
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	(2027)	Costa Rica	(2025)
Ethiopia	(2027)	Cuba	(2026)
Gambia	(2027)	Dominican Republic	(2026)
Ghana	(2027)	Mexico	(2027)
Kenya	(2027)		
Malawi	(2026)		
Morocco	(2025)		
South Africa	(2025)		
Sudan	(2025)		
Asian-Pacific States (13)		Western European and Other States (7)	
Bangladesh	(2025)	Belgium	(2025)
China	(2026)	France	(2026)
Cyprus	(2027)	Germany	(2025)
Indonesia	(2026)	Iceland	(2027)
Japan	(2026)	Netherland (Kingdom of)	(2026)
Kuwait	(2026)	Spain	(2027)

Kyrgyzstan	(2025)		Switzerland	(2027)
Maldives	(2025)			
Marshall Islands	(2027)			
Qatar	(2027)			
Rep. of Korea	(2027)			
Thailand	(2027)			
Viet Nam	(2025)			
			Eastern European States (6)	
			Albania	(2026)
			Bulgaria	(2026)
			Czechia	(2027)
			Georgia	(2025)
			North Macedonia	(2027)
			Romania	(2025)

EMRIP Working Methodologies

Intersessional activities: Expert Seminar and intersessional meetings

The Expert Mechanism held an expert seminar on: “Analysis of laws, legislation, policies, constitutions, judicial decisions, and other outcomes concerning how States have taken measures to achieve the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples consistent with Article 38.” from November 6 - 10, 2023. An official statement on this seminar is available in English here: <https://bit.ly/EMRIP-ES-2023>

Country engagements

During its tenth session (2017), the EMRIP adopted its methods of work on country engagement activities, see Annex I of its [Annual Report \(A/HRC/36/57\)](#). These methods of work sought to operationalize the Expert Mechanism’s new mandate under resolution 33/25, adopted by the Human Rights Council in September 2016.

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Human Rights Council resolution 33/25, the EMRIP should, upon request:

- (a) Assist Member States and/or Indigenous Peoples in identifying the need for and providing technical advice regarding the **development of domestic legislation and policies** relating to the rights of Indigenous Peoples, as relevant, which may include establishing contacts with other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes;
- (b) Provide Member States with assistance and advice for the **implementation of recommendations** made at the Universal Periodic Review and by Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures or other relevant mechanisms;
- (c) Engage and assist Member States, Indigenous Peoples and/or the civil society, by **facilitating dialogue to achieve the objectives** of the UNDRIP.

The purposes of country engagement by EMRIP are multiple and may include:

- provision of independent advice and recommendations

- facilitation of dialogue between different stakeholders
- independent observations of and advice on the implementation of laws and policies to implement UNDRIP
- capacity-building and awareness-raising

The EMRIP may also support States in the implementation of recommendations made by other human rights mechanisms in relation to the human rights of Indigenous Peoples and may provide a deeper analysis of these recommendations.

Depending on the nature of the request, the modalities for country engagement may include:

- country missions
- training activities for State institutions, Indigenous Peoples' organizations, national human rights institutions and other stakeholders
- video or audio calls
- in-person meetings in Geneva or in other locations
- email exchanges
- formal communication through diplomatic channels

States and Indigenous Peoples can **request the EMRIP to engage at the country level**. Country engagement may also include country missions by Expert Mechanism members at the request of States and/or Indigenous Peoples.

Requests from Indigenous Peoples should be submitted to the secretariat of the Expert Mechanism in the OHCHR by email to ohchr-expertmechanism@un.org. For more information on the procedure to submit a request, visit: <http://bit.ly/Country-engagement-Request>

Country engagements since 2018

To date, the Expert Mechanism has undertaken six country visits:

- [Finland](#) (February 2018, upon request of the Sámi Parliament of Finland): the purpose was to consider amendments to the Sámi Parliament Act.
- [Mexico](#) (March 2018, upon the request of the Secretariat of Rural Development and Equality for the Communities (SEDEREC)): the mission focused on the provisions related to Indigenous Peoples within the Constitution of Mexico City, which was adopted in January 2017.

- [New Zealand](#) (April 2019, upon request of the Aotearoa Independent Monitoring Mechanism (AIMM) on behalf of the National Iwi Chairs Forum and the New Zealand Human Rights Commission): the mission focused on areas and specific measures to achieve the objectives of the UNDRIP in New Zealand.
- [Yaqui parties and Swedish Government](#) (June 2019, upon request by International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)): the mission focused on the repatriation of Maaso Kova (ceremonial deer head), a sacred cultural item of the Yaqui People, which was held until July 16, 2023 by the Museum of Ethnography, which is part of the Swedish National Museums of World Culture (the Museum or NMWC).
- [COIAB/Brazil](#) (2020-2021, upon request of the COIAB (Coordenação das Organizações Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira)): the mission focused on the situation of Indigenous Peoples in Brazil during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Australia](#) (2024): the EMRIP provided this advice in response to a request from the Noongar Family Safety and Wellbeing Council with respect to the contemporary removal of Aboriginal children.
- [Norway](#) (2025): the EMRIP provided this advice to a request from the Saami Council with the support of the Sámi Parliament in Norway, and the State of Norway. The mission's aim was to provide technical advice and guidance regarding the interrelated rights of the Sámi People, with specific focus on their rights to land, territories and resources and culture

Indigenous Peoples' Caucus meetings: participation is strongly recommended

The **Indigenous Caucus meeting** is a unique opportunity for Indigenous delegates to meet and share information and experiences. During the Caucus sessions, joint statements and recommendations are put together relating to the agenda items of the EMRIP session or on other topics.

The Indigenous Caucus meeting will be held on **Saturday, July 12, and Sunday, July 13, at 10:00 am** at the ICRC Cafeteria address: Av. de la Paix 17, 1202 Genève (Bus Stop: Appia - Bus lines: 8, 20, 22, 60). **Lunch and a coffee break will be available for a flat charge of 20CHF, please plan to pay with cash.**

Interpretation will be provided by Docip in **English, Spanish, French, Russian and Portuguese.**

The agenda is available in [FR/RU/SP/EN](#).

***Kindly note that, due to the sensitive nature of the issues addressed in the Caucus sessions and the presence of Indigenous representatives who may be at risk, all discussions are to be considered strictly confidential. No form of recording is permitted without the explicit consent of participants. Unauthorized recording or disclosure of these discussions may constitute a violation of Swiss law.^{2*}**

² Articles 179ter and 179quater of the Swiss Penal Code, and Article 13 of the Swiss Federal Constitution guaranteeing the right to privacy, including the protection of correspondence and telecommunications.

PRACTICAL GUIDE

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 through 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 (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).
- [Study](#) on the impact of militarization on the rights of Indigenous Peoples (2023).
- [Report](#): Efforts to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: establishing effective monitoring mechanisms at the national and regional levels for the implementation of the Declaration (2023).
- [Study](#) on Constitutions, laws, legislation, policies, judicial decisions and other mechanisms through which States have taken measures to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in accordance with article 38 of the Declaration (2024).
- [Study](#) on the right of Indigenous Peoples to data, including with regard to data collection and disaggregation (2025).

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-subsidaries/expert-mechanism-on-indigenous-peoples/annual-reports>

5. How do I participate in EMRIP sessions?

The following entities can register to participate in EMRIP sessions:

- Non-governmental organizations' (NGOs) representatives with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) consultative status.
- NGO representatives without ECOSOC consultative status.
- Representatives of Indigenous Peoples organizations 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:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/sessions/2025/18th-session-expert-mechanism-rights-indigenous-peoples>

For information on visas, hotel accommodations, costs, etc. please visit the “Visiting delegates” section on the website of the International Geneva Welcome Centre (CAGI) <https://www.cagi.ch/prestations/> (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://www.ohchr.org/en/events/sessions/2025/18th-session-expert-mechanism-rights-indigenous-peoples>
- 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.
- This year’s session of the EMRIP will feature two types of speakers list registration, [an online registration period](#) of one week prior to the beginning of the session, as well as in-person registration prior to a specific item being discussed.
- Registration: Register on the speakers’ list as soon as you arrive at the session or at <https://events.ohchr.org/> one week prior to the beginning of the session, by presenting your badge (as a representative of your organization) at the desk of the EMRIP Secretariat in the conference room or filling out the registration form online. 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, in order 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 **give a copy to Docip or email it to** documentation@docip.org. Docip collects all statements made, for publication on its web/archive: https://bit.ly/Docip_Publications
- To facilitate the work of the interpreters and the accurate capture of recommendations made by the speaker, all speakers are encouraged to send transcripts of their statements in advance to ohchr-expertmechanism@un.org and to speeches@un.org. Statements must be in a Word document, and clearly indicate which organization is making the submission, and the name of the Item under which they are making the statement. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/sessions/2025/18th-session-expert-mechanism-rights-indigenous-peoples>
- 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 for making 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 and 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 to decide which parts you could cut in case your speaking time is reduced; this will be more effective than trying to speed up your speech as you run out of time.
- 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 regarding agenda items of the EMRIP session or other topics. The Indigenous Caucus is usually held the **weekend before the EMRIP**.

***Kindly note that, due to the sensitive nature of the issues addressed in the Caucus sessions and the presence of Indigenous representatives who may be at risk, all discussions are to be considered strictly confidential. No form of recording is permitted without the explicit consent of participants. Unauthorized recording or disclosure of these discussions may constitute a violation of Swiss law.^{3*}**

10. Side events at the UN

These will take place during four daily time slots, 10-11am, 1-2pm, 2-3pm and 3-4pm throughout the week. They may be organized by Indigenous delegations, international organizations, NGOs, academia, etc. **A list of side events is distributed at the beginning of the session by the EMRIP Secretariat and may also be found at Docip's office or on our [online calendar](#). 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 lunchtime events can usually take place each day.

The Expert Mechanism encourages the organization of lunchtime 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.

³ Articles 179ter and 179quater of the Swiss Penal Code, and Article 13 of the Swiss Federal Constitution guaranteeing the right to privacy, including the protection of correspondence and telecommunications.

- Relationship to the session's agenda.
- Language(s) of the event.
- Whether interpretation will be provided.
- Preferred day for the lunchtime event.

Decisions by the Secretariat on lunchtime 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 Peoples, 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 ohchr-expertmechanism@un.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 him, please visit: <http://bit.ly/SRRIP> and http://bit.ly/Docip_SRRIP.

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 \(WHO\)](#)
 - [Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS \(UNAIDS\)](#)
 - [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#)
 - [World Intellectual Property Organization \(WIPO\)](#)
 - [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#)

The Docip Advocacy Team will be happy to assist in setting up meetings with the key actors listed above, should you require any support.

13. Advice for effective participation in the EMRIP

- **Plan** several weeks in advance of the EMRIP so as to handle all the administrative procedures and formalities (such as visas, registration and logistics) required to participate in the EMRIP session.

- **Study the agenda**, the programme of work and the documents related to the session, all of which are available in 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://www.ohchr.org/en/events/sessions/2025/18th-session-expert-mechanism-rights-indigenous-peoples>

14. How do I get in touch with the Special Rapporteur and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples during sessions of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the EMRIP?

The **Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples** has the mandate to **cooperate with the other two main UN bodies** working on the rights and issues of Indigenous Peoples, namely **the Permanent Forum and the Expert Mechanism**.

The SRIP and the EMRIP will be present during UNPFII and EMRIP annual sessions. To **meet with the Special Rapporteur and EMRIP experts** during these sessions, you have to:

- be registered to the session;
- make a timely request to meet, providing your contact information; 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 ohchr-expertmechanism@un.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 him, please visit: <http://bit.ly/SRRIP> and http://bit.ly/Docip_SRRIP.

For more information on the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, please visit: <http://bit.ly/expert-01E>

For more information about the Permanent Forum, see: <https://social.desa.un.org/issues/indigenous-peoples/unpfii>

Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Documentation, Research and Information (Docip)

Docip Office
1/3 Chemin du Champ-Baron
1209 Geneva
Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 740 34 33

Email: docip@docip.org

During the 18th session of the EMRIP, Docip's office will be located in rooms E-3010/12 (Building E, 3rd Floor, behind Plenary room XIX)

Docip Services during the EMRIP	Contact
General Inquiries	emrip@docip.org
Interpretation and Focal Point (English, French, Spanish, Russian)	Lorena White lorena.white@docip.org
Documentation and Technical Secretariat	Tristan Harnisch tristan.harnisch@docip.org
Translation of documents (English, French, Spanish, Russian)	translation@docip.org
Legal and Advocacy Support on the United Nations' mechanisms	Anne-Charlotte Lagrandcourt (United Nations) advice@docip.org
Legal and Advocacy Support on the European Union's mechanisms	Mathias Wuidar (European Union) advice@docip.org
News and communication (sharing of information)	Pascal Angst pascal.angst@docip.org
Publications	publications@docip.org
Documentation Coordinator	Marie Nanchen marie.nanchen@docip.org
Trainings	Anne-Charlotte Lagrandcourt ac.lagrandcourt@docip.org
Contact Information of Docip's Director	Rémi Orsier remi.orsier@docip.org

With the support of:



The Docip logo is regarded as reflecting the position of the funding organisations.

**United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
18th session 14-18 July 2025
Programme of Work**

Monday 14 July

10h00 – 11h00: Opening of the 18th session

Traditional Indigenous Ritual

Welcoming remarks from:

- President of the Human Rights Council
- United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Item 1: Election of officers

Opening remarks from the Chair of the Expert Mechanism

Item 2: Adoption of agenda and organization of work

11h00 – 13h00: Item 3: Study and advice on the rights of Indigenous Peoples to data, including data collection and disaggregation

Lunch events

15h00 – 16h00: Item 3 (continued): Study and advice on the rights of Indigenous Peoples to data, including data collection and disaggregation

16h00-18h00 Item 6: Country engagement

Tuesday 15 July

10h00 – 13h00: Item 8: Panel discussion on the role of national and regional human rights institutions in achieving the ends of the Declaration

Lunch events

15h00 – 16h30: Item 5: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including report on the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their traditional economies

16h30-18h00: Item 4: Coordination meeting between EMRIP, UNPFII, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples (closed meeting)

Wednesday 16 July

10h00 – 11h00: Closed meeting to discuss Proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council

11h00 – 13h00: Item 9: Enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations

Lunch events

15h00 – 18h00: Item 5 (continued): United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Interactive dialogue with UNPFII, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples and members of the United Nations Treaty Bodies (public)

Thursday 17 July

10h00 – 12h00: Item 10: Future work of the Expert Mechanism, and follow up to thematic studies and advice

12h00 – 13h00: Item 7: International Decade of Indigenous Languages

Lunch events

15h00 – 16h00: Item 7 (continued): International Decade of Indigenous Languages

16h00 – 18h00: Item 11: Proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council for its consideration and approval

Friday 18 July

10h00 – 11h30: Closed meeting to discuss session report and proposals

11h30 – 13h00: Item 12: Adoption of studies and reports

Closing-Traditional Indigenous Ritual

.....

Relevant Background Documents

Here you can find a list of important and relevant documents **related to Indigenous rights** that can be useful to prepare work during the EMRIP.

The ILO Convention 169

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is responsible for the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), the only international treaty open for ratification that deals exclusively with the rights of Indigenous Peoples. As of 2024, the treaty has been ratified by 24 countries.

[The ILO Convention 169](#)

For general information, visit: <http://bit.ly/ILO-indigenouspeoples>

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

The UNDRIP was adopted by the General Assembly on Thursday, 13 September 2007.

Today, UNDRIP is the most comprehensive international instrument on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. It establishes a universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the Indigenous Peoples of the world, and it elaborates on existing human rights standards as they apply to their specific situation.

You can find the declaration here:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html>

The outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

In 2014, the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples took place in New York in order to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including pursuing the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The two-day conference included three roundtables and a panel discussion. The roundtable was held on the following topics:

- UN system action for the Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Implementing the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the national and local level
- Indigenous Peoples' lands, territories and resources

The panel's topic was: Indigenous priorities for the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

The World Conference produced an outcome document, which is available here: <https://undocs.org/A/RES/69/2>

For more information visit the official website of the World conference:

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/69/meetings/indigenous/#&panel1-1> or <http://bit.ly/info-worldconference>.

The UN summary of the two days is available here: <http://bit.ly/summary-2days>

System-wide action Plan (SWAP)

At the [2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples](#), the General Assembly requested the development of a system-wide action plan for a coherent approach to achieving the ends of UNDRIP.

The SWAP covers six elements:

- 1) Raise awareness on UNDRIP
- 2) Support the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly at the country level
- 3) Support the realization of Indigenous Peoples' rights in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- 4) Map existing standards and guidelines, capacities, training materials and resources within the United Nations system, international financial institutions and the members of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues for the effective implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- 5) Develop the capacities of States, Indigenous Peoples, civil society and United Nations personnel
- 6) Advance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in United Nations processes

For more details, visit: <http://bit.ly/info-SWAP>

The complete System-wide action plan (in all UN languages) can be found here: undocs.org/E/C.19/2016/5

The 2030 Agenda

➤ The United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on 25 September 2015.

➤ The Agenda came into effect on 1 January 2016 with the intent of being carried out over the following 15 years. It is a broad and universal policy agenda, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets, which are described as integrated and indivisible.

➤ The report of the 16th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has a dedicated section with recommendations related to the 2030 Agenda: <http://bit.ly/report-16thsession-agenda2030>

In contrast to the Millennium Development Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals explicitly include Indigenous Peoples. Two of the SDG targets make specific references to Indigenous Peoples, committing to double agricultural output of Indigenous small-scale farmers and to ensure equal access to education for Indigenous children. There is also a strong commitment in the 2030 Agenda to empower and engage Indigenous Peoples in implementing and reviewing progress in achieving the goals.

A short introduction paper to Indigenous Peoples' Rights and the 2030 Agenda is available to download here:

[Briefing Paper on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and the 2030 Agenda.](#)

For more information please visit: <http://bit.ly/PermanentForum-Agenda2030>

The resolution on Participation of Indigenous Peoples at the UN

On 8 September 2017, the United Nations General Assembly adopted, without a vote, a resolution titled, "enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them."

Resolution: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/71/321>

For more information please visit: <http://bit.ly/participationIP>

CEDAW General Recommendation 39 on the rights of Indigenous women and girls

In October 2022, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women issued General Recommendation 39 (CEDAW GR 39) on the Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls to provide guidance to States parties on legislative, policy, and other relevant measures to ensure the implementation of their obligations in relation to the rights of Indigenous women under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

General Recommendation 39 is the only form of international soft law that specifically protects the rights of Indigenous women and girls. It strengthens the normative framework of Indigenous Peoples' rights and represents a significant step forward in achieving gender equality.

Through this General Recommendation, the CEDAW Committee calls on States parties to take into consideration the challenging context in which Indigenous women and girls exercise and defend their human rights.

CEDAW General Recommendation 39 is available in different languages here:

<https://undocs.org/CEDAW/C/GC/39>

In its study on the Rights of Indigenous children, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recalled that Indigenous women and girls experience disproportionate rates of all types of violence, including sexual, domestic, gender and conflict-based violence, and those with disabilities are at even greater risk.

Concept note of the discussion available here: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/48/74>

The Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples also reported in 2015 that Indigenous women and girls are three times more likely than non-Indigenous women and girls to face sexual violence in their lifetime. These forms of violence are widespread and often persist with impunity across the life cycle.

Report of the Special Rapporteur available here: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/30/41>

Bibliography

Preparatory Bibliography in Anticipation of the 18th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)

Compiled by Tristan P. Harnisch

Geneva, June 2025

The following references are aimed at providing Indigenous Peoples' Delegates with a substantive set of background resources, useful in preparing their participation at the EMRIP.

THEME(s): (1) International Decade of Indigenous Languages ([Concept note](#)), (2) The role of national and regional human rights institutions in achieving the ends of the Declaration ([Concept note](#)), (3) Data collection and disaggregation ([Study](#)), (4) Enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations ([Concept note](#))

Methodology: With a wide range of topics to choose from, this year's session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is sure to encourage a plethora of discussions among the various themes proposed. The following bibliography is structured so as to summarily delve into the topics selected for this year's session. As such we will begin by proposing (1) a list of essential texts, subsequently delving into the issues of (2) data collection and disaggregation, (3) the role of national and regional human rights institutions in achieving the ends of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and finally (4) the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. Happy reading!

1. Essentials:

- United Nations, Charter of the United Nations, 1945, 1 UNTS XVI, available at: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter>
- United Nations (General Assembly). *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. 2007, [UNDRIP Translation Project](#) (official and non-official, Indigenous and non-Indigenous languages)
- International Labour Organization (General Conference), *Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries* ([#169](#)), 1989.
- United Nations, Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG), *System-Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* ([SWAP](#)), 2015
- United Nations, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, [General Recommendation No.39 on the rights of Indigenous women and girls](#), 2022 (Translations into Indigenous Languages)
- Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, [Convention on Biological Diversity](#), Rio de Janeiro, 1992 (available in all UN languages)
- United Nations SDGs (2015). Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development. A/RES/70/1, UN.

- Docip, [Training and Support Documents](#) on the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (available in FR/ENG/SPA/RUS).
- Docip, [List of Essential Documents](#) on the Rights and Participation of Indigenous Peoples at the International Level (available in FR/ENG/SPA/RUS).
- Docip, [Summary Notes](#) on the 23rd Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2024 (available in FR/ENG/SPA/RUS).
- Docip, [Summary Notes](#) on the 17th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2024 (available in FR/ENG/SPA/RUS)
- International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs, [The Indigenous World 2025](#) (available in ENG,SPA)
- University of Colorado Law School, the Native Americans Rights Fund (NARF), [The Indigenous Peoples' Guide to the United Nations](#), 2024.
- IPRI, Indigenous Peoples and United Nations Human Rights Bodies, [A Compilation of UN Treaty Body Jurisprudence, Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, and the Advice of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), Volume X2023-2024. Compiled and Edited by FERGUS MACKAY.
- IPRI, Xanharu || [Upholding Indigenous Peoples' Rights Legislation and Jurisprudence: Global, Regional, and National Developments](#) (Issue 6).
- UNDESA, State of the World's Indigenous Peoples (SOWIP), [Vol. I-V](#), Vol. VI released in 2025 (Available in ENG/SPA).

2. Data Collection and Disaggregation

- First Nations Information Governance Center, [EXPLORATION OF THE IMPACT OF CANADA'S INFORMATION MANAGEMENT REGIME ON FIRST NATIONS DATA SOVEREIGNTY](#), 2022. (available in ENG)
- First Nations Information Governance Center, [Welastekwey Stories: Legalized Theft](#), 2022. (available in ENG)
- First Nations Information Governance Centre, [First Nations data sovereignty in Canada](#), 2019. (available in ENG)
- Data Governance and Management Toolkit, [Indigenous Approaches to Data and Evaluation \(Reading List\)](#), 2024. (available in ENG)
- Jennings, L., Jones, K., Taitingfong, R. et al. [Governance of Indigenous data in open earth systems science](#). Nat Commun **16**, 572, 2025. (available in ENG)
- DOMINIQUE DAVID-CHAVEZ DANIEL B. FERGUSON et al. [POLICY BRIEF: Supporting Tribal Data Governance For Indigenous Community Climate Resilience](#), CLIMAS, Native Nations Institute University of Arizona, 2019. (available in ENG)
- Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation, [Asian Framework on Indigenous Knowledge and Data Sovereignty](#), 2023. (available in ENG)

- Saionara Reis, Stinne Skriver Jørgensen, [PARTNERSHIPS FOR BETTER DATA AVAILABILITY AND USE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN NEPAL](#), Danish Institute for Human Rights, Indigenous Navigator, 2023. (available in ENG)

- Gail Garvey et al. *Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and Cancer*, [Chapter 9](#): Considerations in Operationalizing Indigenous Data Sovereignty in Cancer Reporting (p.41-47) , [Chapter 14](#): Indigenous Data Aggregation Perpetuates Structural Racism(p-71-77), Springer Open Access, 2024. (available in ENG)

3. The Role of National and Regional Human Rights Institutions in achieving the Ends of the Declaration

- Fontana, Lorenza & Grugel, Jean. (2016). [The Politics of Indigenous Participation Through “Free Prior Informed Consent”](#): Reflections from the Bolivian Case. World Development. 77, 2015. (available in ENG)

- Center for International Governance Innovation, Wiyasiwewin Mikiwahp Native Law Centre, [Special Report: UNDRIP Implementation More Reflections on the Braiding of International, Domestic and Indigenous Laws](#), 2018. (available in ENG)

- Brenda L. Gunn, [Engaging National Human Rights Institutions in Implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), Center for International Governance Innovation, CIGI Papers No.171, 2018. (available in ENG).

- Asia Pacific Forum, UNOHCHR, The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, [A Manual for National Human Rights Institutions](#), 2013. (available in ENG).

- Marina A R de Mattos Vieira, Lieselotte Viaene, [Indigenous Peoples’ Rights at the United Nations Human Rights Council: Colliding \(Mis\)Understandings?](#), Journal of Human Rights Practice, Volume 16, Issue 2, (P. 512–532), 2024. (available in ENG).

- Websites Regional Human Rights Mechanisms and Arrangements, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/nhri/websites-regional-human-rights-mechanisms-and-arrangements>

4. The International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

- UNESCO, [The International Year of Indigenous Languages](#): mobilizing the international community to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages, 2021. (available in ENG).

- UNESCO, [Global action plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages](#) (IDIL 2022-2032), 2021. (available in all UN languages)

- First Peoples’ Cultural Council; [Language Revitalization Fact Sheets](#), 2018. (available in ENG).

- Mary Hermes, Megan Bang, Ananda Marin, [Designing Indigenous Language Revitalization](#), Harvard Educational Review, 2012. (available in ENG).

- UNESCO, International Year of Indigenous Languages Initiative, [Plan d'Action Régional Afrique](#) (Regional Action Plan Africa), 2019. (available in FR).

- Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC), [REGIONAL REPORT](#), *Revitalization of Indigenous Languages; Indigenous Peoples and Languages in Latin America and the Caribbean: Current Situation and Prospects*, 2020^[TH1] .

(Available in ESP)

- Pawanka Fund, *Learning from the local to the global; [Revitalization of indigenous languages in seven sociocultural regions of the world](#)*, 2022. [TH2] (available in ESP).
- Maria Frick, Tiina Räisänen, Jussi Ylikoski, *[Language Contacts and Discourses in the Far North](#)*, Arctic Encounters (P. 1-353), 2023. (Available in ENG).
- Prabindra Shakya, *[The Situation of Indigenous Languages in Asia](#)*, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation, 2022. (Available in ENG).
- UNESCO, *[EVALUATION OF UNESCO'S ACTION TO REVITALIZE AND PROMOTE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES](#)*; Within the framework of the International Year of Indigenous Languages, Internal Oversight Service, Evaluation Office, 2021. (Available in ENG)
- Commonwealth of Australia, Australian National University, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, *[National Indigenous Languages Report](#)*, 2021. (Available in ENG).
- Semenova, E., Khanolainen, D., & Nesterova, Y. *[Indigenous language education in Russia : current issues and challenges](#)*. Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development, 2021. (Available in ENG).
- Andrej A. KIBRIK, A Program for the Preservation and Revitalization of the Languages of Russia, Russian Journal of Linguistics, Vol. 25 No. 2 507—527, 2021. (Available in RUS).
- Mary Hermes, Keiki Kawai'ae'a, *[Revitalizing indigenous languages through indigenous immersion education](#)*, John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2014.

Useful Phone Numbers and Contacts

<p>United Nations Geneva Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) Palais Wilson, 52 rue des Pâquis CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland Tel: +41 22 917 9220 Email: InfoDesk@ohchr.org</p> <p>Civil Society Section Tel: +41 22 917 9656 E-mail: civilsociety@ohchr.org</p>	<p>International Labour Organization (ILO) Tel: +41 22 799 61 11 Mr. Martin Oelz Senior Specialist on Equality and Non-Discrimination Gender, Equality and Diversity Branch Tel: +41 22 799 6543 Email: uelz@ilo.org</p>
<p>New York Secretariat of the UNPFII United Nations Secretariat Building Room S-2954 New York, NY 10017 Tel: +1 917-367-5100 E-mail: Indigenous_un@un.org</p> <p>Dr. Albert K. Barume Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples E-mail: indigenous@ohchr.org</p> <p>Mr. Francisco Alfonzo Assistant to Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Email: francisco.alfonzo@un.org</p>	<p>World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Ms. JIAO Fei Director, division of traditional knowledge and chief of the department Tel: +41 22 338 99 24 E-mail: fei.jiao@wipo.int</p> <p>Mr. Adam Kyomuhendo WIPO Indigenous Fellow E-mail: adam.kyomuhendo@wipo.int</p>
<p>Voluntary Fund Tel.: +41 22 928 91 64 E-mail: indigenousfunds@ohchr.org</p>	<p>Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Indigenous Peoples and Gender Advocacy, Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development Division Mr. Yon Fernandez-de-Larrinoa Team Leader - Indigenous Peoples Team Tel: +39 06570 54295 Email: yon.fernandezlarrinoa@fao.org</p>
<p>American Indian Law Alliance PO Box 3036 Hoboken NJ 07030 Tel: + 1 212 477 9100 Email: aila@ailanyc.org</p>	<p>IFAD Mr. Lorenzo Del Castillo Consultant Email: l.delcastillo@ifad.org</p>
<p>International Land Coalition Tel. +39 06 5459 2445 Email: info@landcoalition.org</p>	<p>United Nations Development Programme Office in Geneva Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10 Tel +41 22 917 85 36 Email: undpgeneva@undp.org</p>
<p>World Health Organization (WHO) Tel: +41 22 791 21 11 Email: info@who.int</p>	<p>United Nation Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Tel: +41 22 917 8400 Email: info@unitar.org</p>