

# Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples EMRIP



## 17th Session

Geneva, 8-12 July 2024

## Information Guide

### **Outline**

*This document is intended to provide an overview of the 17th 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.*

## A. 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 17th Session of the EMRIP

1. **Election** of officers.
2. Adoption of the **agenda** and organization of work.
3. **Study and advice** 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.
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 rights of Indigenous Peoples in post-conflict situations and peace negotiations, agreements and accords.
9. **Enhancing the participation** of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations.
10. **Future work** of the Expert Mechanism, including follow-up to past thematic 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**:

[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](#)

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

[Concept note on Item 8: Panel discussion on the rights of Indigenous Peoples in post-conflict situations, peace negotiations, agreements, and accords](#)

[Concept note on item 9: Enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations](#)

[Advisory note, EMRIP mission to Western Australia](#)

For more detailed information on the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the EMRIP, visit: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/sessions/2024/17th-session-expert-mechanism-rights-indigenous-peoples>

<sup>1</sup> The official agenda of the UN, available at: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/EMRIP/2024/1>

## 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](mailto:ohchr-expertmechanism@un.org).

## Current membership of the Human Rights Council

African States (13)		Latin American and Caribbean States (8)	
Algeria	(2025)	Argentina	(2024)
Benin	(2024)	Brazil	(2026)
Burundi	(2026)	Chile	(2025)
Cameroon	(2024)	Costa Rica	(2025)
Côte d'Ivoire	(2026)	Cuba	(2026)
Eritrea	(2024)	Dominican Republic	(2026)
Gambia	(2024)	Honduras	(2024)
Ghana	(2026)	Paraguay	(2024)
Malawi	(2026)		
Morocco	(2025)		
Somalia	(2024)		
South Africa	(2025)		
Sudan	(2025)		
Asian-Pacific States (13)		Western European and Other States (7)	
Bangladesh	(2025)	Belgium	(2025)
China	(2026)	Finland	(2024)
India	(2024)	France	(2026)
Indonesia	(2026)	Germany	(2025)
Japan	(2026)	Luxembourg	(2024)
Kazakhstan	(2024)	Netherlands (Kingdom of)	(2026)

Kuwait	(2026)		United States of America	(2024)
Kyrgyzstan	(2025)			
Malaysia	(2024)			
Maldives	(2025)			
Qatar	(2024)			
United Arab Emirates	(2024)			
			<b>Eastern European States (6)</b>	
			Albania	(2026)
			Bulgaria	(2026)
			Georgia	(2025)
			Lithuania	(2024)
			Montenegro	(2024)
			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](mailto: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.

### **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 6, and Sunday, July 7, 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](#).

***The discussions held during the Caucus meetings are confidential.***

# B. 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).

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-subsiaries/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://bit.ly/emrip17>

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://bit.ly/CAGI> (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/emrip17>.
- 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. 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 **make a copy and give it to Docip or email it to [documentation@docip.org](mailto:documentation@docip.org)**. Docip collects all statements made, for publication on its web/archive: [https://bit.ly/Docip\\_Publications](https://bit.ly/Docip_Publications)
- Alternatively, you may be asked to email your statements in advance to [estatements@un.org](mailto:estatements@un.org). Statements sent to this address will then be published in the United Nations’ Journal: <https://journal.un.org/en/geneva/all/2024-07-08>
- 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**.

During the rest of the week, additional meetings may 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](mailto:services@docip.org)

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

## **10. Side events at the UN**

These will take place during three daily time slots, 10-11am, 1-2pm and 2-3pm 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](mailto: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(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](mailto: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](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 \(WHO\)](http://www.who.int)
  - [Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS \(UNAIDS\)](http://www.unaids.org)
  - [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](http://www.un.org/development/dndp/)
  - [World Intellectual Property Organization \(WIPO\)](http://www.wipo.int)
  - [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](http://www.ilo.org)

## 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://bit.ly/emrip17>

## 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](mailto: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](http://bit.ly/Docip_SRRIP).

For more information on the Special Rapporteur, please visit:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-indigenous-peoples>

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)

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**During the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the EMRIP, Docip's office will be located in room E-3004 (Building E, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, behind Plenary room XIX)**

<b>Docip Services during the EMRIP</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Interpretation and Focal Point (English, French, Spanish, Russian)	Lorena White <a href="mailto:lorena.white@docip.org">lorena.white@docip.org</a>
Documentation and Technical Secretariat	Tristan Harnish <a href="mailto:tristan.harnisch@docip.org">tristan.harnisch@docip.org</a>
Translation of documents (English, French, Spanish, Russian)	<a href="mailto:translation@docip.org">translation@docip.org</a>
Legal and Advocacy Support on the United Nations' mechanisms	<u>United Nations</u> Anne-Charlotte Lagrandcourt <a href="mailto:ac.lagrandcourt@docip.org">ac.lagrandcourt@docip.org</a>
Legal and Advocacy Support on the European Union's mechanisms	<u>European Union</u> Mathias Wuidar <a href="mailto:mathias.wuidar@docip.org">mathias.wuidar@docip.org</a>
News and communication (sharing of information)	Pascal Angst <a href="mailto:pascal.angst@docip.org">pascal.angst@docip.org</a>
Publications	<a href="mailto:publications@docip.org">publications@docip.org</a>
Trainings	Anne-Charlotte Lagrandcourt <a href="mailto:ac.lagrandcourt@docip.org">ac.lagrandcourt@docip.org</a>
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# *United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

17th session 8-12 July 2024

## **Provisional Programme of Work**

### **Monday 8 July**

**10h00 – 11h00:** *Opening of the 17th 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 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.*

*Lunch: Lunchtime events*

**15h00 – 18h00:** *Item 8: Panel discussion on the rights of Indigenous Peoples in post-conflict situations and peace negotiations, agreements, and accords*

### **Tuesday 9 July**

**10h00 – 13h00:** *Item 6: Country engagement*

*Lunch: Lunchtime events*

**15h00 – 18h00:** *Item 5: 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)*

### **Wednesday 10 July**

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

**11h00 – 13h00:** *Item 10: Future work of the Expert Mechanism, and follow up to thematic studies and advice*

*Lunch: Lunchtime events*

**15h00 – 18h00:** *Item 9: Enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations*

### **Thursday 11 July**

**10h00 – 11h00:** *Item 3 (continued): Study and advice 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.*

**11h00 – 13h00:** *Item 7: International Decade of Indigenous Languages*

*Lunch: Lunchtime events*

**15h00 – 16h30:** *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)*

**16h30 – 18h00:** *Item 11: Proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council for its consideration and approval*

**Friday 12 July**

**10h00 – 12h00:** *Closed meeting to discuss session report and proposals*

**12h00 – 13h00** *Item 4 (continued): Coordination meeting between EMRIP, UNPFII, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples (closed meeting)*

**15h00 – 18h00:** *Item 12: Adoption of studies and reports*

*Closing-Traditional Indigenous Ritual*

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# 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 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](https://undocs.org/E/C.19/2016/5)

### **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 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 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), July 8-12, 2024.

Compiled by Tristan P. Harnisch, Geneva, June 2024

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

**Methodology:** With EMRIP lacking an overarching theme, the following list of publications is divided along three major areas of emphasis. First, a list of official documents published by UN agencies, NGOs, IPOs and [Docip publications](#) will be presented. The two other sections will be dedicated to the themes discussed during Agenda Items 3 and 8, namely; (1) How States have sought to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) through legislation and other forms of policy, and (2) documents related to Indigenous Peoples' rights in post-conflict situations, as well as within peace negotiations, agreements and accords.

### 1. Preparatory Documents compiled by the Secretariat, UN Mechanisms and Civil Society:

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### 2. How States have sought to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) through legislation and other forms of policy:

Government of Canada, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act [Action Plan](#). (Available in ENG, FR)

Institute for Research on Public Policy, [New Tools for Reconciliation](#): Legislation to Implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. (Available in ENG, FR)

Center for International Governance Innovation, [UNDRIP Implementation](#), Braiding International, Domestic and Indigenous Laws. (Available in ENG, FR)

Ibero-American Federation of the Ombudsman, [Good practices](#) in prior consultation processes identified by the Ombudsmen of the People of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. (Available in SPA)

Parliament of Australia, An Inquiry into the application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in Australia, [Chapter 3 - International Applications of UNDRIP](#). (Available in ENG)

**3. Documents related to Indigenous Peoples' rights in post-conflict situations, as well as within peace negotiations, agreements and accords:**

Lez Malezer, Indigenous Peoples and Conflict Resolution: [An Account](#) of the Discussions at the 22nd Session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. (Available in ENG)

Victoria Tauli Corpuz, [Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Unreported Struggles](#): Conflict and Peace, Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University. (Available in ENG)

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