

Geneva for Human Rights – Global Training (GHR)

**Expert Seminar**  
**'Indigenous Peoples: Implementing the UN Declaration'**

**Tuesday 11 July 2017**  
**Palais des Nations (room to be confirmed)**

**DRAFT OUTLINE (22 June 2017)**

**GENEVA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

The international association *Geneva for Human Rights – Global Training (GHR)* is a training organization contributing to **human rights implementation** within countries. GHR trains human rights NGOs and defenders from the regions and all those involved in human rights at the national level to empower them in the elaboration and realization of implementation strategies, and in the use of domestic, regional and international procedures. In Geneva, GHR regularly convenes Expert Seminars on priority issues for defenders from the regions.

**FRAMEWORK OF THE EXPERT SEMINAR**

The UN General Assembly adopted on 13 September 2007 the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Three years later, in its resolution 65/198 of 21 December 2010, the Assembly decided to convene, in 2014, a high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly, to be known as the 'World Conference on Indigenous Peoples', to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples enshrined in the UN Declaration.

In the run-up to this World Conference, GHR held on 19 March 2014 an Expert Seminar in the Swiss Press Club of Geneva to review the UN action regarding indigenous peoples and to contribute to **strengthening UN protection mechanisms and procedures** for indigenous peoples. Opened by the General Secretary of the *World Council of Churches*, the Seminar was co-sponsored by *DoCip* and by the Permanent Missions of Guatemala, Mexico and Norway.

The 'World Conference on Indigenous Peoples' (New York, 22 and 23 September 2014), invited the Human Rights Council (HR-Council) to review existing mandates with a view to improve the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP). At the request of the HR-Council (September 2015), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) convened in April 2016 an Expert Workshop on reviewing EMRIP's mandate.

The 9<sup>th</sup> session of the EMRIP (11 to 15 July 2016) was a good opportunity for indigenous experts and representatives to discuss recommendations on how to strength the mandate of the EMRIP. To facilitate this debate, GHR convened a second Expert Seminar on the **strengthening of the mandate of the EMRIP**. Co-sponsored by the Delegations of Guatemala, Mexico, Norway and Canada, the Seminar took place on the first day of the EMRIP session, on 11 July 2016. It was chaired by Mr. Kenneth Deer, Chair of the Indigenous Caucus.

The HR-Council examined the report of Workshop prepared by OHCHR during its 23<sup>rd</sup> session (12 to 30 September 2016). After several rounds of negotiations on the draft tabled by the Delegations of Guatemala and Mexico, the Human Rights Council adopted on 30 September 2016 the amendments to the mandate of the EMRIP<sup>1</sup>.

Both the Outcome of the 2014 World Conference and the September 2016 resolution of the HR-Council focused on the implementation of the UN Declaration.

**GHR THIRD EXPERT SEMINAR**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Expert Seminar of GHR will take place on **11 July 2017**, that is during the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the EMRIP. Focus will be the **implementation of the UN Declaration** on the basis of the recent decisions of the UN General Assembly and HR-Council. GHR invites the same Experts and the Delegations as last year to co-sponsor the Seminar: Mexico, Guatemala, Norway, Canada. The current draft outline will be improved in consultation with these Delegations and on the basis of the comments received from the indigenous experts invited.

<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Council Resolution 33/25 of 30 September 2016.

**AIMS AND PROGRAMME OF GHR EXPERT SEMINAR**

**Aims of the Seminar**

The aims of the Expert Seminar will be:

- to sensitize participants in the EMRIP on the existing international human rights standards, mechanisms and procedures regarding indigenous peoples;
- to analyze the outcomes of the World Conference and of the September 2016 HR-Council;
- to share experience and expertise on the existing gaps in the implementation of the UN Declaration;
- and to discuss the gaps in the UN mechanisms and procedures.

**Programme of the Seminar**

This is first draft programme. Comments should be received before Thursday 29 June 2017.

**Expert Seminar**

**'Indigenous Peoples: Implementing the UN Declaration'**

**Tuesday 11 July, Palais des Nations, Room (to be confirmed)**

**Draft Programme**

**Opening (20 minutes)**

- Welcome by GHR and the Co-Sponsors.
- 'Introductory Remarks' by the Chairperson of the Expert Seminar (Kenneth Deer, *invited*).
- *Reminder of the existing UN mechanisms and procedures regarding indigenous peoples* (Adrien-Claude Zoller, GHR President GHR).

**First session. Implementation: challenges in the field (30 minutes)**

Indigenous Representatives exposing their main problems: land's rights, big companies, cultural survival (participants in the EMRIP, including OHCHR Indigenous Fellows).

**Second session. UN mechanisms: main challenges (30 minutes)**

- John B. Henriksen (*International Representative Sami Parliament of Norway*) (*invited*)
- Lola García-Alix (*International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs, Copenhagen*) (*invited*)
- Tim Coulter (*Indian Law Resource Centre, Helena, Montana*) (*invited*)

**Recommendations regarding the Implementation of the UN Declaration and conclusions by the Chair (20 minutes)**

**Preparation of the Seminar**

GHR team is composed of Aylin Sahin, Tiffany Pagès and Adrien-Claude Zoller. GHR wishes to prepare this Expert Seminar in cooperation with DoCip, the *Asian Centre for Human Rights* (New Dehli, *ACHR*), the *International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs* (IWGIA), the *Sami Parliament in the Nordic countries* and the *OHCHR*. GHR has invited the Permanent Delegations of Mexico, Guatemala, Canada and Norway to co-sponsor the Seminar.

(draft for comments – 22.06.2017)

**'Geneva for Human Rights – Global Training'**

Ecumenical Centre, 150 Route de Ferney  
Case / P.O. Box 2100 CH-1211 GENEVA 2, Switzerland  
E-mails: info@gdh-ghr.org; & acz.hr@bluewin.ch;  
tel. (41-22) 320.27.27 & (41-79) 345.82.00