UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Alexey Tsykarev
Expert Member
Mandate

- The Expert Mechanism provides the Human Rights Council with thematic advice, in the form of studies and research, on the rights of Indigenous peoples as directed by the Council.
- The Expert Mechanism may also suggest proposals to the Council for its consideration and approval.
Post–2015 development agenda
UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Follow–up to previous studies and advice
Follow–up to the implementation of the World conference Outcome Document
Business and Indigenous Peoples’ Rights
Thematic Studies

- 2009 Study on lessons learned and challenges to achieve the right of indigenous peoples to education
- 2011 Study on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision making
- 2012 Study on the role of languages and culture in the promotion and protection of the rights and identity of indigenous peoples
Thematic Studies

» 2013 Study on the access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples
» 2014 Study on the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in disaster risk reduction, prevention and preparedness initiatives
» 2015 Study on the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples with respect to their cultural heritage
Follow-up Studies

- 2012 Study on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making, with a focus on extractive industries
- 2014 Study on access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples: restorative justice, indigenous juridical systems and access to justice for indigenous women, children and youth, and persons with disabilities
Indigenous peoples should enjoy the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health. It is impossible to discuss the right to development without ensuring the right to health.

Access to quality and culturally appropriate healthcare for indigenous peoples in wealthy countries is not necessarily better than in those developing.
Proposals for the next study

- The rights of indigenous peoples and individuals engaged with the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- Discrimination facing indigenous peoples in business and access to financial services, with specific reference to indigenous women entrepreneurs;
- Article 8 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the right of indigenous peoples and individuals not to be subjected to forced assimilation and destruction of culture.
Survey on the implementation of the Declaration

- Summary of responses from the questionnaire seeking the views of States and of indigenous peoples on best practices with regard to possible appropriate measures and implementation strategies in order to attain the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
OP 28 of the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples:

“We invite the United Nations Human Rights Council, taking into account the views of indigenous peoples, to review the mandates of its existing mechanisms, in particular the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, within the 69th session of the General Assembly, with a view to modify and improve the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to more effectively promote respect for the Declaration, including by better assisting Member States to monitor, evaluate and improve the achievement of the ends of the Declaration”
Authority to select independently the themes of its future studies

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples should be the main normative framework

Enhanced cooperation and interaction with other UN mechanisms, mandate holders and national human rights institutions

Country-specific activities: facilitating dialogue between indigenous peoples, States, the private sector, and other stakeholders; technical assistance, awareness-raising and capacity building activities.
In focus in 2015 – 2016

- International repatriation of ceremonial objects and cultural items
- Endangered languages
- Participation of Indigenous Peoples within the United Nations system
- Business and Human Rights
- Indigenous persons with disabilities
- Human Rights Defenders
An Interactive Dialogue
Intersessional activities

- Cooperation with other UN indigenous-specific mandates, joint statements
- Expert Seminars
- Side events
- Work with academic partners
- Advancement of advice
- Publications and statements
- Participation at international fora
Intersessional activities

g, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Fifteenth session (9-16)

Featured Videos
“Governments must ensure discrimination-free and culturally-sensitive education systems for indigenous peoples, taking into account their languages and histories.”

“Education is an indispensable means of realizing indigenous peoples’ right to self-determination and their capacity and ability to pursue their own economic, social and cultural development,” he said. “The right to education also supports the commitments on the part of States to the Sustainable Development Goals with a view to leaving no one behind.”
Thank you

- [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/EMRIP/Pages/EMRIPIndex.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/EMRIP/Pages/EMRIPIndex.aspx)

- Alexey.tsykarev@gmail.com