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**REPORT OF THE OPEN-ENDED MEETING OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO
THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
FOCUSING ON OP 28 AND OP 33 OF THE WCIP OUTCOME DOCUMENT
March 3-5, 2015
Geneva, Switzerland**

Agenda Item 3 (a): Outcome of the high-level plenary meeting of the
General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous
Peoples

*Conference Room Paper submitted by the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)
and the Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), Indigenous Peoples Organizations in
Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)*

**OPEN-ENDED MEETING OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO
THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
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**March 3-5, 2015
Club Suisse de la Presse,
Route de Ferney 106, 1202
Geneva, Switzerland**

**REPORT ON THE DISCUSSION ON IMPROVING EMRIP'S MANDATE AND
PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS**

The Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact, the International Indian Treaty Council, the National Congress of Australia's First People and the Sami Parliament of Norway hosted an open-ended meeting of Indigenous Peoples on 3 - 6 March 2015 in Geneva. The meeting brought together an ad-hoc group of representatives of Indigenous Peoples institutions and organizations from all seven regions to discuss the follow-up of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, in particular paragraphs 28 and 33 of the outcome document. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss informally about possible ways forward including potential options for further discussion in the regions.

I. Discussion on Improving the Mandate of the EMRIP

In reference to Operative Paragraph of the Outcome document from the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples which states, “[w]e invite the 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, during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, with a view to modifying and improving the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples so that it more effectively promotes respect for the Declaration including by bettering assisting member states to monitor, evaluate and improve the achievement of the ends of the Declaration”, Indigenous Peoples representatives attending the meeting from all 7 Indigenous regions made the following recommendations:

1. The Human Rights Council should initiate, preferably by resolution, the process of reviewing the mandate of EMRIP as called for in OP 28 of the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, in a way which ensures the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples.
2. An improved EMRIP mandate should complement the mandates of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to achieve the ends of the Declaration, and to collaborate and take actions on issues concerning Indigenous Peoples.
3. In addition, an improved EMRIP mandate must include:

- (1) facilitating face to face dialogue between States and indigenous peoples' representatives, including possibly at the national level;
- (2) providing technical assistance and advice to States, Indigenous Peoples and the private sector to overcome obstacles to implementing the Declaration;
- (3) providing, upon request by states or indigenous peoples practical and technical advice to member States and Indigenous Peoples to prepare and monitor the implementation of achieving the ends of the Declaration, including the national implementation plans and legislative, policy and administrative measures;
- (4) providing advice for the implementation of recommendations of UN human rights bodies for which there is substantial consensus between States and Indigenous Peoples;
- (5) gathering, receiving, and considering information from all sources, including states, indigenous peoples and UN expert bodies and mandate holders, among others; preparing and disseminating reports and recommendations; carrying out country visits; issuing general observations relating to the rights of Indigenous Peoples and individuals; sharing information about best practices; issuing interpretations of the provisions of the Declaration; and collaborating and taking joint action with other special mandate holders;
- (6) seeking and receiving communications and other information from States and Indigenous Peoples on specific cases and matters of concern for the rights in the Declaration, including conducting thematic, country or case specific hearings with the participation of States and Indigenous Peoples addressing core issues of cross cutting relevance to the implementation of the Declaration;
- (7) building the capacity of Indigenous Peoples to engage effectively with States and the United Nations, including technical assistance and facilitating issues and complaints being channeled more effectively to existing UN human rights mechanisms;
- (8) contributing to the work of the Universal Periodic Review process and the Treaty Bodies, which have an existing role in ensuring states meet their obligations;
- (9) making proposals to the Human Rights Council regarding gaps in existing standards or norms for the protection of Indigenous Peoples' human rights;
- (10) undertaking studies and research at the request of Indigenous Peoples, States and the Human Rights Council, taking into account submissions and proposals from States and Indigenous Peoples and providing expert advice and recommendations to the Council based on these studies;
- (11) providing continuing follow up for key studies elaborated by the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, in particular the studies on Treaties, Agreements, and Constructive Arrangements and Indigenous Peoples' Permanent Sovereignty over Land and Natural Resources.

(12) recommending themes and assisting the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights to organize expert seminars addressing issues related to the rights of Indigenous Peoples based on identification of overarching themes and concerns presented by States and Indigenous Peoples;

(13) providing input to Working Group on Human Rights, Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises and other UN mechanisms and bodies regarding implementing the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and

Structural Points

1. The EMRIP must be composed of independent experts with relevant expertise, capacity, and experience.
2. The process for selecting experts must include both states and Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions.
3. The EMRIP should have adequate financial and human resources to effectively fulfill its mandate.
4. The criteria for EMRIP members, as a whole, should be strengthened to require indigenous legal expertise, including judicial and/or Indigenous traditional legal expertise. Regional and gender balance should be taken into account.
5. The EMRIP should have at least ten days of meeting time each year, to include open, closed, and intercessional meetings.

II. Discussion on Participation

1. Consistent with the right of self-determination, we strongly recommend broad, full and effective participation in all bodies of the United Nations in terms of where Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions themselves determine that issues under discussion in those bodies and processes would affect their rights. Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions will determine which bodies and processes are relevant to their rights.
2. We emphasize the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the minimum standard for Indigenous Peoples' participation, in particular Articles 3 and 18. In this regard, we also recall Articles 5, 6, 26 and 41.
3. The current rules for engagement are deficient for ensuring the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions in United Nations processes.
4. We recall Theme 2, paragraph 10 of the Alta Outcome Document, which calls for "*at a minimum, permanent observer status within the UN system enabling our direct participation through our own governments and parliaments. Our own governments include inter alia our traditional councils and authorities*". The focus and primary

purpose of Operative Paragraph 33 is to find ways and means for these representative bodies to function under a new status allowing them to participate fully and effectively.

5. We recall the Report of the United Nations Secretary-General, *“Ways and Means of Promoting Participation at the United Nations of Indigenous Peoples’ Representatives on Issues Affecting Them”*, stating, “[t]o the extent that it has been permitted to date, indigenous peoples’ participation at the United Nations has been a positive experience. It has enabled indigenous peoples who had been historically excluded to work together peacefully and in partnership with States to advance their issues and rights. It has been a process of mutual trust-building, premised on equality and equity among stakeholders, and had led to fruitful outcomes and greater commitments by indigenous peoples, States and the United Nations system to strengthen recognition and respect for indigenous peoples’ rights.” [A/HRC/21/24].

Proposals for Further Discussion

1. A new category of Permanent Observer Status should be created for Indigenous Peoples’ representative institutions and other representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures.
2. There should be a new process and body for accrediting Indigenous Peoples’ representative institutions. The General Assembly, with the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples’ representative institutions, should create a new committee to carry out the accreditation process, taking into account regional differences.
3. Participation of Indigenous Peoples’ representative institutions should include attending UN meetings and conferences, including country reviews by the Treaty Bodies and the Universal Periodic Review, submitting written statements, making oral statements and proposing agenda items; they should have priority in regard to seating and order of speaking and should have the same ability to submit written and oral statements and participate in drafting resolutions as member states.
4. Participation should be permitted in all bodies and agencies relevant to indigenous interests, as determined by Indigenous Peoples’ representative institutions.
5. Indigenous Peoples’ representatives from all regions should be able to fully participate in the process of accreditation, including determining criteria for accreditation and implementing an accreditation process.

**OPEN-ENDED MEETING OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE
WORLD CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

Focusing on OP 28 and OP 33 of the WCIP's Outcome Document

Geneva, March 3- 5 2015

List of participants		
Name	Organisation	E-mail
Mexico, Central and South America		
Estebancio Castro Diaz	CICA, CIMA, FPCI, AIA + NAPGUANA	castroestebancio@gmail.com
Margarita Gutiérrez Romero	Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas	margargut@yahoo.com.mx
José Carlos Morales	Kus Kura s.c – Costa Rica	jcarlosm6@gmail.com
Sonia Patricia Murcia Roa	CISA + Maloca Internationale	soniamurciar@malocainternationale.org
Leonardo Rodríguez Pérez	CISA + Maloca Internationale	leonardorodriguez@malocainternationale.org
Manuel Max Castillo	Maya Scholar – Leiden University	maycastillo@gmail.com
Rosario Luque Gil	CAPAJ Internacional Comisión Jurídica Andina	rosario.gilluquegonzalez@unifr.ch
Tomas Condori	Consejo Indio de Sud America (CISA)	tcondori@puebloindio.org
Lázaro Pari	Tupac Amaru	
North America		
Heather Whiteman Runs Him	Native American Rights Fund	heatherw@narf.org
Kenneth Deer	Haudenosaunee	kennethdeer@gmail.com
Karla General	Indian Law Ressource Center	kgeneral@indianlaw.org
Perry Bellegarde	Assembly of First Nations	pbellegarde@afn.ca
William David	Assembly of First Nations	wdavid@afn.ca
Andrea Carmen	International Indian Treaty Council	andrea@treatycouncil.org
Frank Ettawageshik	National Congress of American Indians	fettawa@charter.net
Chief Wilton Littlechild	International Chief for Treaties 6, 7 and 8; EMRIP member, WEOG region	wilton.littlechild@xplornet.ca
Pacific		
Cathryn Eatock	Aboriginal Rights Coalition +	cathy.eatock@gmail.com

	IPMSDL + Mudgin-gal	
Les Malezer	National Congress of Australia's First Peoples	les.malezer@gmail.com
Tracey Whare	Aotearoa Indigenous Rights Trust	wharetracey@gmail.com
Arctic		
Hjalmar Dahl	Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)	hjalmar@inuit.org
Thomas Aslak Juuso	Sámi Parliamentarian Council	tajuuso@hotmail.com
John B. Henriksen	Sami Parliament of Norway	john.henriksen@samediggi.no
Africa		
Elizabeth Pantoren Letiyon	Nomadic Indigenous Integrated Development Foundation (NIDP) + MPIDO	Nalawan2000@yahoo.com
Kayombya Jean	Batwa Foundation	fonbat42@yahoo.com
Russia		
Berezhkov Dmitry	Center for Support of Indigenous Peoples (Russia)	dmr.bkv@gmail.com
Rodion Sulyandziga	CSIPN / Russia	rodion@csipn.ru
Asia		
Mrinal Kanti Tripura	Maleya Foundation	mrinaltripura@maleya.org hapang.tipra.mk@gmail.com
Joan Carling	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact	joan@aippnet.org
Victoria Tauli Corpuz	UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples	unsr@taulicorpuz.org
Observers		
Hee-Kyong Yoo	UN-OHCHR- SR	yoo@un.org
Rachel Singleton-Polster	Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)	rachelgsp@gmail.com
Lola Garcia-Alix	IWGIA	lga@iwgia.org
Pierrette Birraux	Docip	pierrette@docip.org
Andrés Del Castillo	Docip	andres@docip.org
Patricia Borraz	SR-Support Team	pborraz@internet-link.com

Dialogue meeting with the representatives of the OHCHR and the Permanent Forum Secretariat on the 5th of March, 2015

Name	Institution	e-mail
Antti Korkeakivi	OHCHR/Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section	akorkeakivi@ohchr.org
Juan Fernando Nuñez	OHCHR/ Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section/EMRIP	jnunez@ohchr.org

Broddi Sigurdarson	UNPFII Secretariat/New York	sigurdarson@un.org
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Dialogue meeting with the delegations from Mexico and Guatemala on the 5th of March, 2015

Name	State delegation	E-mail
Gisele Fernández Ludlow,	Mexico	gfernandez@sre.gob.mx
Juan Antonio Benard	Guatemala	jbenard@minex.gob.gt

Dialogue meeting with Governmental delegations on the 6th of March 2015

Name	State Delegation	E-mail
Leslie Marks	Unites States Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations	marksle@state.gov
Leigh McCumber	Government of Canada	leigh.mccumber@international.gc.ca
Luis E. Chávez Basagoitia	Peru Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission of Peru in Geneva	lchavezb@onuperu.org
Rodriguo Paillalef	Government of Chile	rpaillalef@minrel.gov.cl
Erling hoem	Permanent Mission of Norway in Geneva	erling.hoem.mfa.no
Carlos Eduardo Da Cunha Oliveira	Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN	carlos.cunha@itmaraty.gov.br
Stefan Lee	Permanent Mission of Finland, Geneva	stefan.lee@formin.fi
Jarrold Clyne	New Zealand United Nations Security Council 2015-16	jarrod.clyne@mfat.govt.nz
Emily Hill	Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations	emily.hill@dfat.gov.au