



General Assembly

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Human Rights Council

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Fifth session

9–13 July 2012

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Annotated provisional agenda

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Annotations to the provisional agenda

Following the adoption of its resolutions 5/1 and 6/16, and in compliance with General Assembly resolution 60/251, the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 6/36, established the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as an advisory body to the Council.

1. Election of officers

Pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 60/251, the Human Rights Council applies the rules of procedure established for committees of the General Assembly (see A/520/Rev.17), as applicable, unless subsequently otherwise decided by the Assembly or the Council. On the election of officers, rule 103 of the rules of procedure states that each committee elects a Chairperson, one or more Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Expert Mechanism will have before it the provisional agenda of its fifth session (A/HRC/EMRIP/2012/1) and the present annotations relating to the items included in the provisional agenda. The Expert Mechanism will adopt the agenda, including any revisions it might wish to make.

In its resolution 6/36, the Council determined that the Expert Mechanism should meet once annually, for three days in its first year and thereafter for up to five days, and that the sessions may be a combination of open and private meetings. For its fifth session, the Expert Mechanism will meet for five days, from 9 to 13 July 2012.

Rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that each committee should, at the beginning of its session, adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a

target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item. Accordingly, the Expert Mechanism will have before it for consideration and approval a draft timetable prepared by the secretariat showing the order and distribution of meeting times for each agenda item of its programme of work for the fifth session.

3. World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

In its resolution 18/8, the Human Rights Council welcomed the preparatory process towards the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/198, and requested the Expert Mechanism to discuss the World Conference and, together with other relevant mechanisms on indigenous peoples' issues, to contribute to the exploration of the modalities for the meeting, including indigenous peoples' participation in the World Conference and its preparatory process.

This agenda item will enable the Expert Mechanism and observers to the fifth session to examine and discuss the appropriate modalities for the World Conference.

4. Follow-up to thematic studies and advice

In its resolution 18/8, the Human Rights Council welcomed the Expert Mechanism's practice of devoting specific time to the discussion of updates relevant to past mandated thematic studies of the Expert Mechanism, and recommended that it adopt this practice on a permanent basis, while encouraging States to continue to participate in and contribute to those discussions.

The Human Rights Council further requested the Expert Mechanism to build on its previous studies, including its study on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making (A/HRC/18/42).

The agenda item will provide the opportunity for the Expert Mechanism to consider the follow-up to its previous studies, including a report the Expert Mechanism itself has prepared that builds on its previous study on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making, with a focus on extractive industries (A/HRC/EMRIP/2012/2).

5. Study on the role of languages and culture in the promotion and protection of the rights and identity of indigenous peoples

In its resolution 18/8, the Human Rights Council requested the Expert Mechanism to prepare a study on the role of languages and culture in the promotion and protection of the rights and identity of indigenous peoples, and to present it to the Council at its twenty-first session.

Accordingly, the Expert Mechanism undertook such a study. To contribute to the preparation of the report on the study, and following the practice of the previous studies, the Expert Mechanism sent out a call for submissions on the topic of the study and examined the topic in greater detail at a two-day expert seminar on indigenous peoples' languages and cultures, held on 8 and 9 March 2012.

The agenda item will provide an opportunity for the experts and observers to provide comments and suggestions on the draft report on the study on the role of languages and culture in the promotion and protection of the rights and identity of indigenous peoples (A/HRC/EMRIP/2012/3). The Expert Mechanism will subsequently complete the final version of the report on the study and submit it to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-first session.

6. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

In its resolution 6/36, the Human Rights Council recalled that, at its sixty-first session, the General Assembly adopted, in its resolution 61/295, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In the report of the Expert Mechanism on its first session (A/HRC/10/56), it was stressed that the Declaration is a key human rights instrument on the rights of indigenous peoples and constitutes a part of the framework for the work of the Expert Mechanism.

In its resolution 18/8, the Human Rights Council requested the Expert Mechanism to undertake, with the assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, a questionnaire to seek the views of States on best practices regarding possible appropriate measures and implementation strategies to attain the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The results of that questionnaire have been compiled in an Expert Mechanism draft report (A/HRC/EMRIP/2012/4).

The agenda item will provide an opportunity for a general discussion on the Declaration, focused on the use of the Declaration to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples, and a discussion of the results of the questionnaire to seek States' views on best practices regarding possible appropriate measures and implementation strategies to attain the goals of the Declaration, with a view to finalizing the associated report for submission to the Council at its twenty-first session.

The agenda item will also provide an opportunity for interactive dialogue between observers and a representative of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples on their activities relevant to the implementation of the Declaration.

7. Proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council for its consideration and approval

As stated by the Human Rights Council in resolution 6/36, the Expert Mechanism may make proposals to the Council for its consideration and approval, within the scope of its work as set out by the Council. This may include proposals on how its thematic expertise could assist the Council in the implementation of its mandate and mechanisms.

8. Adoption of the report

The Expert Mechanism will adopt its report on the fifth session for submission to the Human Rights Council.
