

15th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
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Statement by Ms. Silje Karine Muotka, president of the Sámi Parliament in Norway

Item 10: Future work of the Expert Mechanism, including focus of future thematic studies (Closed Meeting with indigenous peoples)

Giitu ságadoalli / Thank you Chair,

I am speaking in my capacity as the president of the Sámi Parliament in Norway.

I am grateful for the opportunity to participate at the 15th session of EMRIP.

We recall and are proud of the major achievements of the past decades for the advancement of the rights of the world's indigenous peoples, including the creation of the Expert Mechanism in 2007, and the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, from the same year.

The Sámi Parliament are very pleased with the work conducted by EMRIP in these years, including the many thematic studies. I will especially mention the 2018 Study on Free, Prior and Informed Consent. That study is important in our daily work and cooperation with Norwegian authorities and different business companies that are seeking to establish their industry in the traditional Sámi territory.

Next year, we have 10+ anniversary for the Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference held in the town of Alta, in the Norwegian part of Sápmi, in June 2013. The Alta outcome document, and the following Outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples 2014, asked for a UN system action for the implementation of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and that the states commit themselves to take, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, measures at the national level, including legislative, policy and administrative measures, to achieve the ends of the Declaration.

The outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, paragraph 8, are very clear that states in cooperating with indigenous peoples, are committed to develop and implement national action plans, strategies, or other measures to achieve implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In Norway, the Sámi Parliament have asked different governments, from different election periods, about this without getting any substantive feedback. For us, this has been very frustrating, because we see a growing need to implement the Declaration at national level.

In conclusion, to be brief, I hope that the future work of the Expert Mechanism can focus on the implementation of the Declaration. This also include thematic studies on the theme.

Thank you for your attention / Ollu giitu.