

**EXPERT MECHANISM ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

**Statement on expert seminar and inter-sessional meeting**

*Geneva, Switzerland*, *5-9 December 2022*

The United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) held an expert-seminar hosted by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at Palais Wilson, from 5 to 6 December, and an inter-sessional meeting, from 7 to 9 December.

The purpose of the seminar was to gather information for the EMRIP’s study on, “The Impact of Militarisation on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” (resolution 33/25, para. 2a, of the Human Rights Council). The seminar provided an opportunity for exchange among academics, practitioners and other experts on this issue.

The purpose of the inter-sessional meeting was to plan for the EMRIP’s forthcoming activities including requests received for country engagement under its new mandate and related working methods and policies. Requests for country engagement include implementation of Universal Periodic Review and Treaty Bodies recommendations; eviction of Indigenous Peoples from their land; free, prior and informed consent; land rights and cross border Indigenous Peoples; the protection of Indigenous children and the implementation of legislation recognising Indigenous Peoples, among others. Information on country engagement missions to be undertaken will be provided on the EMRIP’s webpage and reported upon during the EMRIP session from 17 to 21 July 2023.

The EMRIP decided at its 15th session to develop a report on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, focusing on “establishing effective monitoring mechanisms at the national and regional levels for the implementation of the Declaration” (resolution 33/25, para.2b, of the Human Rights Council). The EMRIP is thankful to the University of British Colombia, which will hold a seminar on this theme, in cooperation with the EMRIP, in February 2023.

A request for inputs to the study on the “The Impact of Militarisation on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” has been announced on the EMRIP’s webpage. A draft of this study will be discussed and finalized by the EMRIP during its 16th session in July 2023, before being presented to the Human Rights Council during its 54th session in September 2023.

The EMRIP has also discussed its programme of work, including its annual study for 2024 (resolution 33/25, para. 2a) and its report for 2024 (resolution 33/25, para. 2b). The Expert Mechanism will announce the themes of the study and the report during its annual session in July.

The EMRIP takes this opportunity to thank the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for its excellent collaboration in hosting the expert seminar at Palais Wilson.

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*The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) is a subsidiary body of the Human Rights Council mandated to provide the Council with expertise and advice on the rights of Indigenous Peoples as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and assist Member States, upon request, in achieving the ends of the Declaration through the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the rights of Indigenous Peoples.*