

Human Rights Council
2nd Session,
Report of the Sub-Commission
Inter-active Dialogue
Oral intervention

Joint Statement by the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), the International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), the Indian Council of South America (CISA) and the Asian Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Network (ITPN)

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Chairman, we welcome the report of the Sub-Commission, particularly its recommendation that a standing expert advice mechanism akin to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations be established by the Human Rights Council. The Indigenous Caucus strongly supports this recommendation. The Council's working group examining mandates should pay special attention to the extraordinary contribution the WGIP continues to make to the promotion and enhancement of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous Peoples.

The Council and its working group examining mandates should note that the mandate of the WGIP including standard setting and review of current and future developments in Indigenous human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous Peoples are not in the mandates of other mechanisms such as the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples nor the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues. The WGIP now, and any future standing group of experts, can promote coherence across the human rights system as a whole, by establishing close cooperation and coordination between all parts of the human rights system and other parts of the international system as appropriate including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the International Law Commission.

We would also suggest that as the Council considers future mechanism on Indigenous Peoples and a standing group of experts, that it consider including indigenous experts as well as experts nominated by States as members.

In addition to the establishment of a standing expert mechanism on Indigenous Peoples, the Indigenous Caucus also strongly appreciates and supports the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous Peoples as well as the establishment of a permanent agenda item on Indigenous Peoples by the Council.

Thank you Mr. President.