

36th session of the Human Rights Council

Annual half-day discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples

Theme: Tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- Date and venue:** 20 September 2017, 9 a.m. to noon, Palais des Nations, Room XX, Geneva
(will be broadcast live and archived on <http://webtv.un.org>)
- Objectives:** The panel discussion aims to:
- Identify good practices and challenges in achieving the ends of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
 - Examine the role of indigenous youth in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples.
 - Consider the way forward in implementing the Declaration including through collaboration between relevant human rights mechanisms.
- Chair:** H.E. Mr. Joaquín Maza Martelli, President of the Human Rights Council
- Opening statement:** Ms. Kate Gilmore, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Moderator:** Ms. Dali Angel, Coordinator, Red de Jóvenes Indígenas de América Latina
- Panellists:**
- Ms. Karla General, Attorney, Indian Law Resource Center
 - Ms. Christine Kandie, Programme Officer, Endorois Welfare Council, Kenya
 - *(Third panellist to be confirmed)*
- Outcome:** A summary report of the discussion will be prepared by OHCHR and submitted to the Council prior to its 38th session.
- Mandate:** The Human Rights Council decided to hold an annual half-day discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples in its resolution 18/8 of 29 September 2011. The theme of this year's discussion is mandated by Council resolution 33/13 of 29 September 2016.
- Format:** The opening statement by the Deputy High Commissioner and initial presentations by the panellists, the latter guided by the moderator, will be followed by an interactive discussion divided into two slots and chaired by the President of the Human Rights Council. The list of speakers for the discussion will be established at the beginning of the panel and, as per practice, statements by high-level dignitaries and groups will be moved to the beginning of the list. States and observers, including representatives of civil society, take the floor for a 2-minute intervention each (total 45 minutes), followed by responses from panellists (15 minutes). A second round of interventions from the floor (45 minutes) will be followed by responses and concluding remarks from the panellists and the moderator (15 minutes).
- To make the panel interactive, speakers are encouraged to focus their interventions on the themes of the panellists either by asking the panellists questions or sharing relevant national experience. The participation of representatives of indigenous peoples is encouraged. Interpretation will be provided in the six United Nations official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).
- Accessibility for persons** In an effort to render the Human Rights Council more accessible to persons with disabilities and to promote their full participation in the work of the Council on an equal basis with others, the panel will be made accessible to persons with disabilities. During the debate, international sign

with disabilities: interpretation and real-time captioning will be provided and webcasted. In Room XX, four seats are reserved for participants with disabilities in the last (seventh) row. Hearing loops are available for collection from the Accessibility Focal Point at the secretariat desk in Room XX. Oral statements can be embossed in Braille from any of the six official United Nations languages by following the procedure described in the *Accessibility guide to the Human Rights Council for persons with disabilities* (available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/AboutCouncil.aspx>).

Background: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the General Assembly on 13 September 2007, following more than two decades of consultations and negotiations with the active engagement of indigenous peoples.

The Declaration establishes a universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity, well-being and rights of the world's indigenous peoples. It addresses both individual and collective rights; cultural rights and identity; rights to education, health, employment, language, and others. It outlaws discrimination against indigenous peoples and promotes their full and effective participation in all matters that concern them. It also ensures their right to remain distinct and to pursue their own priorities in economic, social and cultural development. The Declaration explicitly encourages harmonious and cooperative relations between States and indigenous peoples.

While there has certainly been progress towards achieving the ends of the Declaration over the past decade, indigenous peoples face many persistent challenges. These include structural discrimination, lack of protection for indigenous lands and territories, endangered languages and cultures, and in some cases, a lack of legal and political recognition of indigenous peoples.

At the 2014 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, States reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the ends of the Declaration, including through the development of national plans of action and an enhanced mandate for the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples subsequently set out in Council resolution 33/25.

Background documents:

- [Human Rights Council resolutions 18/8](#) (29 September 2011) and [33/13](#) (29 September 2016), "Human rights and indigenous peoples"
- [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), General Assembly resolution 61/295 (13 September 2007)
- [General Assembly resolution 69/2](#) (22 September 2014), "Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples"
- Report of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Ten years of the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: good practices and lessons learned (2017) ([A/HRC/36/56](#)).