

## HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EXPERT MECHANISM'S MANDATE

### Participate in sessions

The following interested parties can attend the Mechanism's annual session as observers:

- States
- Indigenous representatives
- UN mechanisms, bodies and specialized agencies, funds and programmes
- Intergovernmental organizations, regional human rights organizations and mechanisms
- National Human Rights Institutions and other relevant national bodies
- Academics and experts on indigenous issues
- Non-governmental organisations

The **Voluntary Fund on Indigenous Peoples** provides financial support for the participation of indigenous representatives. For more information, see our website:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/about/funds/indigenous/>

### SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDIES

The Expert Mechanism encourages written contributions to its studies from various partners. Calls for contributions are sent out by OHCHR.

## CONTACT

The secretariat of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights on Indigenous Peoples is located at OHCHR.

### See our website:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/ExpertMechanism/index.htm>

### Or contact:

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section  
UNOG-OHCHR  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

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*The Human Rights and Alliance of Civilisations Room, Palais des Nations, Geneva*



# EXPERT MECHANISM ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Providing advice on indigenous peoples' rights to the Human Rights Council



UNITED NATIONS



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



The United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was established by the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2007.

The Mechanism which is made-up of five experts, including indigenous persons, serves as an advisory body to the Human Rights Council. It provides expertise on issues related to indigenous peoples' rights, mainly through studies, as requested. It may also make proposals for the Council's consideration.

The United Nations Human Rights office (OHCHR) services the Expert Mechanism and also provides technical and financial support.



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## HOW IT WORKS

### Annual sessions

Each year, the Mechanism has a five-day session to:

- meet with various interested parties in order to respond to the Human Rights Council's requests for expert advice
- and to discuss how the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples can improve indigenous peoples' lives

### Thematic studies

The Mechanism provides its expertise mainly in the form of studies and advice on specific issues pertaining to indigenous peoples' rights. It has worked so far on two studies on the right of indigenous peoples to education and on the right to participate in decision-making.

The Mechanism works closely with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as well as other human rights mechanisms and institutions.

## UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Adopted by the General Assembly in September 2007, the Declaration is a key reference for indigenous peoples' rights and for the Mechanism.

Article 42 of the Declaration requests all relevant UN mandates to promote respect for and full application of the Declaration's provisions.

The Expert Mechanism, through its advice to the Human Rights Council, helps to provide a better understanding of the Declaration and other human rights standards concerning indigenous peoples.



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