

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

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

*Chiang Mai, Thailand***,** *5-9 November 2018*

The United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) held an expert-seminar hosted by the Regional Centre for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD) and the Centre for Ethnic Studies and Development (CESD), Faculty of Social Sciences, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 5 to 6 November, and an inter-sessional meeting, from 7 to 9 November, in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

The purpose of the seminar was to gather information for the EMRIP’s study on Indigenous Peoples’ Rights in the Context of Borders, Migration and Displacement (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: repatriation of cultural and/or spiritual objects; development of a national plan of action, implementation of regional court decisions; implementation of Universal Periodic Review recommendations; evictions of indigenous peoples from their land; the protection of indigenous children; and traditional fishing rights. Information on country engagement missions to be undertaken will be provided on the EMRIP’s webpage and reported upon during the EMRIP session in July 2019.

During its inter-sessional meeting, the EMRIP had an exchange with Indigenous peoples and met representatives from the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP). The EMRIP appreciates the support of the AIPP and the information shared about ongoing matters in the region, including requests to implement the decision of the Supreme Administrative Court relating to the indigenous peoples living in the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex.

The EMRIP started the initial preparations of its upcoming report on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), focusing on Recognition, Reparations, and Reconciliation (resolution 33/25, para.2b, of the Human Rights Council).

Requests for inputs to the study on Indigenous Peoples’ Rights in the Context of Borders, Migration and Displacement and the report on Recognition, Reparations, and Reconciliation, have been announced on the EMRIP’s webpage.

A draft study on Indigenous Peoples’ Rights in the Context of Borders, Migration and Displacement and a draft report on Recognition, Reparations, and Reconciliation, will be discussed and finalized by the EMRIP during its 12th session in July 2019, before being presented to the Human Rights Council during its 42nd session in September 2019.

The EMRIP decided that its annual study for 2020 (resolution 33/25, para. 2a) will focus on the right to land, and its report for 2021 (resolution 33/25, para. 2b) will focus on self-determination, as expressed in the UNDRIP. The EMRIP decided that reports under 2b of resolution 33/25 will be produced bi-annually.

The EMRIP takes this opportunity to thank the University of Chiang Mai for its excellent collaboration in hosting the expert seminar.

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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.*