

**17th session of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
(EMRIP)**

8th to 12 July 2024, Geneva, Switzerland

Statement on

Agenda Item 6: Country engagement

Date: 8th July 2024

**A Statement by Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Alliance-CIPA to 17th Session of the
UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)**

Sopheak Som, on behalf of Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Alliance-CIPA

Thank you, Sir Chairperson, for give me the flow. I'm *Sopheak* on behalf of Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Alliance-CIPA

During the consultation when drafting laws and policies, the government considers indigenous peoples as part of the defenders of land and forests. The state does not understand indigenous people. It does not support the activities of environmental rights defenders. The allocation of land for management and protection falls under the jurisdiction of the ministry, and indigenous communities do not have full rights to participate in protection of illegal deforestation. There is no representation of indigenous people in drafting relevant laws and policies concerning them.

We recommend EMRIP to call for the Government to:

1. The government must cooperate and consult with indigenous people by taking effective measures to facilitate recognition, protection, usage, and implementation of the economic, social, and cultural rights of indigenous people.
2. The government must establish a composition or representation from indigenous people and ensure their participation from the drafting of legal frameworks, sub-decrees, and national policies.
3. The government must create a working group between relevant ministries and specific indigenous peoples to provide legal and policy input and allocate national budgets to promote the implementation of this work.
4. The government must disseminate laws and policies related to indigenous people to relevant ministries for effective implementation concerning indigenous people.
5. All states must consult and cooperate in good faith with indigenous people through their representative institutions to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent before approving and implementing legal or administrative measures that may affect indigenous people.
6. The government must provide government status for indigenous youth in all sectors, such as five lawyers in the justice sector, five notaries, five judges, and in the education sector, thirty teachers at all levels per year.

To United Nations Agencies

1. There has been no strong focus yet on indigenous peoples, such as in the areas of education, women's empowerment, support, and promotion of participation.

2. Request the UN to facilitate cooperation between donors and indigenous people to understand the challenges and needs and support based on the real needs of indigenous people.

To donors

1. There has not been much support focusing on the real needs of indigenous people yet, and donors have not yet understood the decision-making processes of indigenous groups. Most of them operate behind the scenes to allow indigenous institutions to implement and fulfill donor's agenda. Additionally, the complexity of the proposal writing and documentation requirements from donors poses a challenge.
2. Request support in the form of funding that is simple, flexible, long-term, large-scale, supports 40% of administrative costs, and does not require complex documentation.