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|  | EUROPEAN UNION  Permanent Delegation to the United Nations Office  and other international organisations in Geneva |

**17th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

**Item 8: Panel discussion on the rights of Indigenous Peoples in post-conflict situations, peace negotiations, agreements, and accords**

**8 July 2024**

**EU statement**

Distinguished members of the Expert Mechanism, distinguished Indigenous representatives,

The discussion on the rights of Indigenous Peoples in post-conflict situations, peace negotiations, agreements and accords, is both timely and important.

Indigenous Peoples are often disproportionately affected by conflicts, including displacement, loss of land and resources, and violations of their human rights. Particularly Indigenous women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, face heightened risks in the context of conflicts and require tailored support and protection measures to ensure their rights and well-being are safeguarded.

The European Union reaffirms its active engagement in all efforts to enhance the full, effective and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions on all issues affecting them, including in the context of peace negotiations, agreements and accords as well as in post-conflict situations, acknowledging their unique perspectives and contributions to reconciliation efforts.

Furthermore, the contribution of Indigenous Peoples, which take into account the perspectives and voices of women, children, and youth, is critical to ensure successful conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts. Indigenous women, in particular, play pivotal roles as peacebuilders and agents of social cohesion within their communities.

Distinguished members of the Expert Mechanism,

What measures need to be taken in order to ensure that knowledge and cultural practices of Indigenous Peoples are better taken into account in contributions for sustainable peace and reconciliation in conflict-affected regions and countries?