

EMRIP-17<sup>th</sup> session

Agenda item 3: Study and advice on Constitutions, laws, legislation, policies, judicial decisions and other mechanism through which States have taken measures to achieve the ends of the UNDRIP -Article 38 of the Declaration

Thank you, Madame Chair/Mr. Chair

I am Shylina Lingaard, current Indigenous Fellow UNHCHR

I am part of the Lokono or Arowak tribe in Suriname in South America, one of the 4 mayor tribes that still exist.

**I hereby recommend the following:**

1. That the state of Suriname legally recognizes and effectively implement the individual as well as the collective rights, other rights and especially land rights in Indigenous living areas and territories. As well as ratify ILO-169
2. To the EMRIP-expert; to provide awareness and advise on technical cooperation between the Indigenous Peoples' and the state of Suriname to improve Indigenous livelihood
3. To the Special Rapporteur; to visit Suriname to witness the many violations on the rights of Indigenous Peoples' resulting in extinction to an already small population of Indigenous Peoples' as experienced by other Indigenous People's all over the world.

Even though Suriname has voted for various universal and regional human rights treaties as the ICCPR, ICESCR, CRC, ICERD, CEDAW as well as UNDRIP in 2007. Suriname is still the only country in the LAC-region that has not ratified or adopted the rights of Indigenous People's in spite of IA-Court judgements ruling against the state.

For Indigenous People's in Suriname this means violation of all 46 articles stated in the UNDRIP. The Indigenous organization VIDS submitted a draft law on Collective Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Peoples in Suriname to the national assemble, that after discussion modified the draft law into land conversion law, which does not in any way comply with Indigenous livelihood

We face discrimination and exclusion. When community members defend their living areas and territories against legal as well as illegal economic activities, they are seen as threats, criminals that need to be locked away or even executed, this referring to the current case against the state, a violent collision that took place on

the 2nd of May 2023 where 2 community members were killed during the arrest and others members are still detained.

As Indigenous Peoples' we have seen many come and share our home, our land. Currently Mennonites are also interested in 1 million hectares of the 16.4 million hectares of Suriname for large scale agriculture.

As Indigenous Peoples' we want to keep our Indigenous livelihood, identity and land, but how can we do this, when we our entire existence is being violated?

Thank you, Madam chair/Mr. Chair.