

27th session of the Human Rights Council (8-26 September 2014)

Half-day discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples

Wednesday, 17 September 2014

Statement by Ireland

Ireland would like to add some remarks to those made on our behalf in the statement of the European Union.

We welcome the distinguished panellists and the study presented by the Expert Mechanism on the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in disaster risk reduction.

Indigenous peoples often have a close relationship with their environment. This can be both a blessing and a burden, leaving them vulnerable to the effects of climate change and disasters.

In 2015, three multilateral processes, all fundamental for the sustainability and resilience of nations and communities, will conclude: the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction; the post-2015 development agenda; and, the international climate negotiations through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. A key question is how to ensure coherency of disaster risk reduction and the incorporation of the human rights perspective in these diverse processes.

We note the useful and timely advice given in the Annex to this report, which highlights the need for indigenous peoples to be included in the preparation of any initiative on disaster risk reduction, at the international as well as the national level. According to the same study, however, indigenous peoples are not being fully engaged with on disaster risk reduction initiatives, despite the disproportionate impact disasters can have on their lives. Ireland agrees that sound disaster risk strategies developed in active participation with indigenous peoples can contribute to the fulfilment of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and can have an impact on strengthening resilience, not only of indigenous communities, but of their regions as well.

We would be grateful if the panellists could highlight an example of best practice in the field of disaster risk reduction either at a national, regional or international level where indigenous peoples were engaged with in a manner consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?