



**Permanent Mission of Sweden
to the United Nations**



**Permanent Mission of Iceland
to the United Nations**



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF NORWAY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF DENMARK TO THE UN**



**Permanent Mission of Finland
to the United Nations**

JOINT NORDIC STATEMENT

by Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark

Agenda item 5d: Human rights dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

22 April 2021

Thank you for the floor.

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and my own country Denmark together with Greenland.

We appreciate the opportunity to engage with both of these important actors within the field of rights of indigenous peoples.

[UN Special Rapporteur on Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Francisco Cali Tzay]

Mr. Tzay, I would like to start by thanking you for your work undertaken during this last year. The work is of great importance, and we look forward to continuing the engagement and cooperation with you.

The Nordic countries are committed to ensuring respect for the rights and cultures of indigenous peoples, and we appreciate your efforts to shed light on the impact of the coronavirus on the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples.

In your report, you highlight that precautionary measures adopted by States to control the coronavirus do not always acknowledge, accommodate or respect indigenous peoples' practices, traditions or customs. In this regard, the Nordic countries would like to ask you, Mr. Tzay:

Could you elaborate on how States should design precautionary measures in order to respect and accommodate indigenous practices, traditions and customs such as community-living practices while effectively protecting residents from infection?

[Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples]

Distinguished members of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Nordic countries, including Greenland, would like to thank you for all your work regarding rights of indigenous peoples.

The Nordic countries note with appreciation your latest study regarding land rights of indigenous peoples and your latest report on repatriation of ceremonial objects, human remains and intangible cultural heritage. In your report regarding repatriation, you touch upon the importance of establishing meaningful relationships with museums as a contribution to the healing of past injustices and the protection and intergenerational transmission of indigenous peoples' living cultures. Thus, the Nordic countries would like to ask:

What measures can States take to facilitate the establishment of meaningful relationships between indigenous peoples and museums?