



Australian Government

Canada



In the margins of the 10th session of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), we invite you to join for an interactive discussion on:

Advancing the EMRIP Study on Indigenous Businesses: Practical Actions for States and Indigenous Peoples

**Room XXII Room, Palais des Nations
13h15 – 14h45, Thursday 13 July 2017**

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their own economic systems (Articles 3, 5, 20, 21, 23), and calls upon States to ensure continuing improvement of economic conditions for indigenous peoples (Article 21).

Through the exchange of insights, experiences and good practice, this side event will explore the benefits of growing the global indigenous business sector so that indigenous communities may advance their own economic rights and interests; as well as to use their own economic resources to invest in their own social, cultural, civil, and political interests.

The panel will elaborate on the findings of the EMRIP study on barriers and best practices in relation to indigenous businesses and access to finance. The panel will discuss how indigenous business leaders have been organising themselves through the World Indigenous Business Forum to seize control of their own economic destinies whilst “retaining a distinctiveness that is consistent with their ancestral values, aspirations, ways of working, and priorities on behalf of all future generations” (quote from the 2015 World Indigenous Business Forum). The panel will explore measures for enabling indigenous businesses leaders to influence global economic policies and decision-making processes that ultimately affect indigenous communities at local levels.

Panellists:

- **Dr Albert Barumé**, EMRIP Chair, will provide insights from the recent EMRIP study on indigenous businesses and access to finance.
- **Rosa Walker**, member of Peguis First Nation in Manitoba, Canada, and the CEO of the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute and the World Indigenous Business Forum. Rosa will explore practical opportunities for growing the global indigenous business sector so that future generations may benefit from sustainable, indigenous-driven development.
- **Barb Hambleton**, member of Couchiching First Nation in Ontario, Canada, and the Vice President of the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute and the World Indigenous Business Forum. Barb will share examples from the World Indigenous Business Forum about indigenous communities transforming themselves through their own economic development.
- **Warren Mundine**, from the First Australian Nations of Bundjalung and the Gumbaynggirr peoples and Chair of the Australian Indigenous Chamber of Commerce. Warren will explore the role of government in creating an enabling environment for indigenous-driven economic development at national, regional and international levels.

Moderator:

- **Mr Craig Ritchie**, CEO, Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies