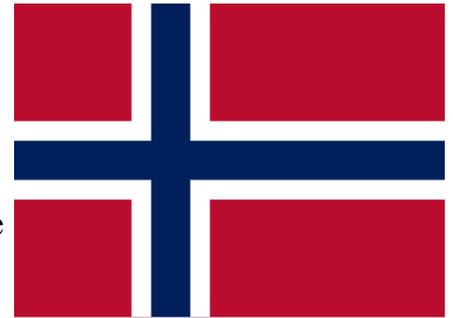


Comittee: Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee

Country: The Kingdom of Norway

Agenda Item: Ensuring the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Context of Climate Change and Environmental Degradation



The Kingdom of Norway is located in Northern Europe on the Scandinavian Peninsula and has a population of 5.6 million, which includes around 50,000 to 60,000 indigenous Sami people. The Sami peoples have lived for centuries in northern Norway, Sweden and Finland. Sami peoples have always maintained their close connections with nature through reindeer herding and fishing especially. In 1989 the Sami were officially recognized as an indigenous people with the approval of the Sami Act in Norway which gave them the legal protection for their land, language and culture.

With the element of climate change and environmental degradation the Sami were affected deeply. Changes in seasonal weather patterns and shifts in vegetation affected the reindeer migration routes, traditional heritage and livelihoods. Industrial activities -including mining and construction projects- had also disrupted the balance between the Sámi and their natural way of living. These challenges demonstrate the large impacts of climate change on Indigenous communities worldwide.

And in order to protect Indigenous rights, The Kingdom of Norway believes that the recruitment of both national and international cooperation. Norway supports the frameworks for ensuring the engagement of Indigenous peoples in decision-making processes affecting their traditional lands. As a country committed to human rights and environmental responsibility, Norway is determined to work with other Member States to protect Indigenous peoples, promote sustainable solutions to climate change, and ensure that the cultural and traditional heritage of Indigenous peoples is preserved for future generations.