Basic information

2017/2206(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Violation of the rights of indigenous peoples in the world, including land grabbing **Subject** 6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	ASSIS Francisco (S&D)	30/05/2017
	Shadow rapporteur ZELLER Joachim (PPE) KARSKI Karol (ECR) VERGIAT Marie-Christine (GUE/NGL) CORRAO Ignazio (EFDD)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
DEVE Development	HEUBUCH Maria (Verts/ALE)	24/01/2018
FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	MARCELLESI Florent (Verts/ALE)	16/01/2018

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
European External Action Service	MOGHERINI Federica

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
05/10/2017	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/05/2018	Vote in committee		
29/05/2018	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0194/2018	Summary

02/07/2018	Debate in Parliament		
03/07/2018	Decision by Parliament	T8-0279/2018	Summary
03/07/2018	Results of vote in Parliament		
03/07/2018	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2017/2206(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/8/11130

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE615.257	09/01/2018	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE618.008	07/02/2018	
Committee opinion	FEMM	PE616.843	16/04/2018	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE618.035	24/04/2018	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0194/2018	29/05/2018	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0279/2018	03/07/2018	Summary

Violation of the rights of indigenous peoples in the world, including land grabbing

2017/2206(INI) - 29/05/2018 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted an own-initiative report by Francisco ASSIS (S&D, PT) on violation of the rights of indigenous peoples in the world, including land grabbing.

The total population of indigenous peoples is estimated to be over **370 million people living in over 70 countries worldwide**, representing around 5 % of the total world population. There are at least 5 000 distinct indigenous peoples, who, despite their geographical dispersion, face similar threats and challenges.

These people are victims of violence as well as racism, discrimination, forced evictions, destructive settlement, and illegal expropriation of their ancestral lands or lack of access to their resources, livelihoods and traditional knowledge.

Members called upon the Union and Member States to:

- adopt all necessary measures for the **full recognition, protection and promotion** of the rights of indigenous peoples, including to their lands, territories and resources;
- make sure that all its development, investment and trade policies **respect the human rights of indigenous peoples** as enshrined in human rights treaties and conventions;
- follow all the necessary steps to effectively comply with the provisions contained in **International Labour Organisation** Convention No 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and recalls that all ratifying states are obliged to develop coordinated and systematic action to protect.

Rights of indigenous peoples: the EU was called upon to legally recognise the territorial autonomy and **self-determination** of indigenous people, which implies their right to own, use, develop and control their lands, territories, waters and costal seas, and other resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership.

The report stresses the importance of:

- ensuring universal access for indigenous peoples to their national population registers;
- conducting mandatory human rights **impact assessments** of any new activity in the mining and oil and gas extraction sectors prior to the commencement of these activities;
- **including** indigenous peoples and rural communities in the decision-making process with regard to strategies for tackling climate change, and consulting them in all deliberations on issues that could affect them;
- ensuring physical integrity and legal assistance for indigenous, environmental, intellectual property and land rights defenders, and fully respect the rights of indigenous peoples and rural communities.

The report called for the **withdrawal of private security and military forces** deployed in the territories of indigenous peoples in violation of their rights.

Land grabbing: Members remained concerned about the situation of land grabbing as a result of corrupt practices by corporations, foreign investors, national and international state actors, officials and authorities. They called on the EU to:

- place greater emphasis on the issue of land grabbing;
- request **disclosure of land acquisitions** involving EU-based corporations and actors or EU-funded development projects in order to increase the transparency and accountability of those acquisitions;
- adopt the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests and support their implementation.

Business and human rights: Members called for the EU to engage in constructive negotiations on a **UN treaty** on transnational corporations that guarantees respect for the human rights of indigenous peoples, and of women and girls in particular. They recommended that the EU develop a **European regional action plan for business and human rights**, guided by the principles enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The EU must work to hold multinational corporations and international financial institutions to account for their impact on indigenous communities' human and environmental rights.

Sustainable and economic development: Members called on the EU to include indigenous peoples, and especially indigenous women and rural communities, in their strategies for tackling climate change and in the design of efficient climate strategies relating to adaptation and mitigation. They requested that the issue of climate-induced displacement be taken seriously and stated that they were open to a debate on establishing a provision concerning **climate migration**.

Members recalled that 80 % of forests worldwide constitute traditional lands and territories of indigenous peoples and stressed the vital role of indigenous peoples for sustainable management of natural resources and conservation of biodiversity. In addition they noted that between 200 and 500 million people worldwide practise pastoralism.

The committee stressed the need to foster **sustainable pastoralism** and, more broadly, to recognise pastoralists' and indigenous peoples' rights related to communal ownership of ancestral land, their right to freely dispose of their natural resources and their rights to culture and religion.

Lastly, the report recommended that greater prominence be given to the situation of indigenous people in the **EU's foreign policy**, that a mechanism be established to carry out independent impact assessment studies prior to the conclusion of trade and cooperation agreements in order to prevent their deleterious effects on the rights of indigenous and that the EU strengthen support for indigenous peoples as part of its development cooperation programmes.

Violation of the rights of indigenous peoples in the world, including land grabbing

2017/2206(INI) - 03/07/2018 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 534 votes to 71, with 73 abstentions, a resolution on violation of the rights of indigenous peoples in the world, including land grabbing.

The total population of indigenous peoples is estimated to be **over 370 million people living in over 70 countries** worldwide, representing around 5 % of the total world population. There are at least 5 000 distinct indigenous peoples, who, despite their geographical dispersion, face similar threats and challenges.

These people are victims of violence as well as racism, discrimination, forced evictions, destructive settlement, and illegal expropriation of their ancestral lands or lack of access to their resources, livelihoods and traditional knowledge.

Parliament called upon the Union and Member States to:

- adopt all necessary measures for the **full recognition, protection and promotion** of the rights of indigenous peoples, including to their lands, territories and resources;
- make sure that all its development, investment and trade policies **respect the human rights of indigenous peoples** as enshrined in human rights treaties and conventions;
- follow all the necessary steps to effectively comply with the provisions contained in **International Labour Organisation Convention** No 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples;
- create conditions for the fulfilment of the objectives set out in the **UN Declaration** on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and to encourage its international partners to adopt and implement it fully;

Rights of indigenous peoples: the EU was called upon to support the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and legally recognise the territorial autonomy and **self-determination** of indigenous people, which implies their right to own, use, develop and control their lands, territories, waters and costal seas, and other resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership.

The resolution stressed the importance of:

- ensuring universal access for indigenous peoples to their national population registers;
- conducting mandatory human rights **impact assessments** of any new activity in the mining and oil and gas extraction sectors prior to the commencement of these activities;
- **including indigenous peoples** and rural communities in the decision-making process with regard to strategies for tackling climate change, and consulting them in all deliberations on issues that could affect them;
- ensuring physical integrity and legal assistance for indigenous, environmental, intellectual property and land rights defenders, and fully respect the rights of indigenous peoples and rural communities;
- support indigenous peoples' requests for international **repatriation** and the establishment of an international mechanism to fight the sale of indigenous artefacts taken from them illegally, including through financial assistance under the EIDHR.

Parliament called for the **withdrawal of private security** and military forces deployed in the territories of indigenous peoples in violation of their rights.

Land grabbing: Members remained concerned about the situation of land grabbing as a result of corrupt practices by corporations, foreign investors, national and international state actors, officials and authorities. They called on the EU to:

- place greater emphasis on the issue of land grabbing;
- request **disclosure of land acquisitions** involving EU-based corporations and actors or EU-funded development projects in order to increase the transparency and accountability of those acquisitions;
- adopt the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests and support their implementation.

Business and human rights: Parliament called for the EU to :

- ensure that the **UN Guiding Principles** for Business and Human Rights are fully integrated into the national programmes of Member States and incorporated into the practices and operations of transnational corporations and business enterprises with European ties;
- engage in constructive negotiations on a **UN treaty** on transnational corporations that guarantees respect for the human rights of indigenous peoples, and of women and girls in particular;
- develop a European regional **action plan for business and human rights**, guided by the principles enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- hold multinational corporations and international financial institutions to account for their impact on indigenous communities' human and environmental rights ;
- establish an effective administrative **complaint mechanism** for victims of human rights violations and other harmful impacts induced by official development assistance-funded activities with a view to initiating investigation and reconciliation processes.

Sustainable and economic development: highlighting the essential role of indigenous peoples in protecting the environment, Parliament called on the EU to include indigenous peoples, and especially indigenous women and rural communities, in their strategies for tackling climate change and in the design of efficient climate strategies relating to adaptation and mitigation. It requested that the issue of climate-induced displacement be taken seriously.

Given that **80 % of forests worldwide** constitute traditional lands and territories of indigenous peoples, Members stressed the vital role of indigenous peoples for sustainable management of natural resources and **conservation of biodiversity**. They recalled that the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) calls upon its states parties to respect the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples.

In addition they noted that between 200 and 500 million people worldwide practise pastoralism. Parliament stressed the need to foster **sustainable pastoralism** and, more broadly, to recognise pastoralists' and indigenous peoples' rights related to communal ownership of ancestral land, their right to freely dispose of their natural resources and their rights to culture and religion.

It called on all states to commit to ensuring that indigenous peoples have genuine access to health, education, employment and economic opportunities.

Lastly, Parliament recommended that greater prominence be given to the situation of indigenous people in the **EU's foreign policy**, that a mechanism be established to carry out independent impact assessment studies prior to the conclusion of trade and cooperation agreements in order to prevent their deleterious effects on the rights of indigenous and that the EU strengthen support for indigenous peoples as part of its development cooperation programmes.