**Indigenous peoples and mission – summary of consultation**

Representantives from Church of Norway, NGOs involved in mission, and academics have been gathered in **Tromsø 18-19 January 2018** discussing the relationship between the indigenous peoples and church and mission.

A brief summary follows:

We, the participants of the discussion in Tromsø wish to acknowledge that:

* all of humankind is created in the image of God (Gen 1,26)
* traces of God can be found in all places and among all
* peoples shall and are called to participate in the praise of God (Rev 7,9-10;21,24.26)
* as Christians we are all one in Christ (Gal 3,28).
* our diversity as peoples is part of the diversity in God´s creation
* all of humankind are in need of Christ and the Church is constituted to bring Christ to all peoples
* while as followers of Jesus Christ we have a vocation to bring the gospel to all people, we have no right to impose our culture on other people, or consider one culture as superior to another
* Our christian faith both affirms and challenges different aspects of all cultures

We want to encourage our churches and organizations to

* recognize God in all cultures and creation
* focus on sharing the gospel in a holistic way through forgiveness of sins, struggle for justice, reconciliation and healing
* join the often impoverished indigenous peoples in the struggle for livelihood, their own perception of history, maintain their roots and identity, and self-determination of governance and planning their future
* peel off the layers of colonialization so that the gospel can be received and implemented in a way that is relevant in different cultures among the peoples
* focus on the struggles of indigenous youth with their identity as Christians, struggles that are caused by the churches’ role in assimilation and cultural oppression
* recognize, name and counteract the dynamics of the abuse of power and structures of inequality
* continue to work in coalition with indigenous peoples in ways that empower and liberate
* strengthen indigenous peoples ownership of Christian faith
* learn from genuine and life-affirming aspects of indigenous cultures, and let them enrich the various churches´ understanding of Bible and faith
* take steps to assure that Christian mission is a humble, accompanying and empowering presence among indigenous people

We encourage indigenous communities to

* take part in ecumenical and cross-cultural networks and dialogue
* share their experience and understanding of the christian faith with others

The discussion was hosted by

Sami Church Council, Church of Norway



Congregation in Mission, Church of Norway

C:\Users\va589\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\3G2XXOV2\Logo SMM 24.4.14 (002).tif

Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations



Nord-Hålogaland Diocese, Church of Norway

