



79th World Health Assembly

FINLAND'S STATEMENT

Agenda item 15.3 - The health of Indigenous Peoples

Honorable Chair,

Finland highly values the consideration given to the health of indigenous peoples and the engagement of their representatives in this process.

We support deferring the global plan of action for the health of Indigenous Peoples. This provides time for consultation, building upon the valuable regional dialogues. Inclusive processes are fundamental.

Nationally, our first **Sámi Truth and Reconciliation Commission** delivered its findings in 2025. The commission highlighted shortages of mental health and social services in Sámi languages, and intergenerational trauma rooted in state assimilation policies such as residential school experiences.

In response, Finland is committed to ensuring all Sámi people can access social and health services in their own language, and to strengthening awareness in Sámi languages, culture, and history.

We look forward to continued collaboration with WHO and Member States in order to adopt the global plan of action next year.