



Human Rights Council**Forty-eighth session**

13 September–11 October 2021

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development****Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council
on 8 October 2021****48/11. Human rights and indigenous peoples***The Human Rights Council,**Recalling* all relevant General Assembly, Commission on Human Rights and Human Rights Council resolutions on human rights and indigenous peoples,*Reaffirming* its support for achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007,*Recognizing* that, since its adoption, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has positively influenced the drafting of several constitutions and statutes at the national and local levels and contributed to the progressive development of international and national legal frameworks and policies as the Declaration applies to indigenous peoples,*Appreciating* the current efforts being made to promote, protect and fulfil the rights of indigenous peoples, recalling the commitment made at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples to consider ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, and welcoming Assembly resolution 71/321 of 8 September 2017,*Acknowledging* the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in the meetings of various United Nations organs and their subsidiary bodies, in particular the Human Rights Council and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,*Taking note* of the outcome document of the Dialogue Meeting on Enhanced Indigenous Peoples' Participation at the United Nations organized by indigenous organizations and institutions and held in Quito from 27 to 30 January 2020,*Acknowledging* the importance of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples for supporting the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings concerning them,*Taking note* of the report of the Expert Mechanism on efforts to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, focusing on indigenous peoples

and the right to self-determination,¹ and encouraging all parties to consider the recommendations made in the report,

Taking note also of the study of the Expert Mechanism on the rights of the indigenous child under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,² and encouraging States to consider implementing the advice therein,

Taking note further of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples on indigenous peoples and coronavirus disease (COVID-19) recovery,³ and calling upon all States to consider the recommendations contained in the report,

Stressing the need to pay particular attention to the rights and needs of indigenous women, children, young persons, older persons and persons with disabilities, and to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate violence and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination in this regard, as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted by consensus by the General Assembly in 2014,⁴

Recognizing that indigenous peoples are among the first to face the direct consequences of climate change owing to their dependence upon and close relationship with the environment and its resources, and welcoming the role of indigenous peoples in achieving the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement and the targets and goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing also the increasing impact of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights and its specific impact on the enjoyment of rights and ways of life of indigenous peoples around the world, and recalling the preamble to the Paris Agreement and to decision 1/CP.21 on the adoption of the Paris Agreement⁵ acknowledging that States should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on the rights of indigenous peoples, paragraph 135 of decision 1/CP.21 recognizing the need to strengthen the role of indigenous peoples' knowledge systems relating to mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and paragraph 36 of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,

Noting with appreciation the establishment of the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its twenty-fourth session, with equal participation of representatives of indigenous peoples and of parties to the Framework Convention, to advance the objectives and implementation of its functions,

Bearing in mind the importance of empowering and building the capacity of indigenous women and young persons, including for their full and effective participation in decision-making processes in matters that affect them directly, including policies, programmes and resources, where relevant, that target the well-being of indigenous women, children and young persons, in particular in the areas of universal and equitable access to quality health services, mental health, adequate nutrition, including through family farming, education, employment and the transmission of traditional knowledge, languages and practices, and also the importance of taking measures to promote awareness and understanding of their rights,

Acknowledging the current efforts being made to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the process of preparing the post-2020 biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Noting that the COVID-19 pandemic is having a serious impact on the health, education, food security, safety, well-being and livelihoods of people across the world, with a disproportionately negative effect on indigenous peoples, their ancestral territories and sacred sites, and the need to take immediate and appropriate measures to address these

¹ A/HRC/48/75.

² A/HRC/48/74.

³ A/HRC/48/54.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 69/2.

⁵ FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1.

effects, including the elimination of barriers, such as digital and language barriers, to the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in matters affecting their rights, and to leave no one behind, with an endeavour to reach the furthest behind first, founded on the dignity of the human person and reflecting the principles of equality and non-discrimination,

1. *Acknowledges* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the rights of indigenous peoples,⁶ and requests the High Commissioner to continue to submit to the Human Rights Council an annual report on the rights of indigenous peoples containing information on the relevant developments in human rights bodies and mechanisms and the activities undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at Headquarters and in the field that contribute to the promotion of, respect for and full application of the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to follow up on the effectiveness of the Declaration;

2. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, and encourages all Governments to respond favourably to the requests of the mandate holder for visits and to respond to communications;

3. *Also welcomes* the work of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including its annual reports of 2020 and 2021⁷ and its intersessional activities, and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure the timely translation into all official languages of the United Nations and distribution of its reports to the Human Rights Council and the pre-session translation of its studies and reports, in accordance with Council resolution 33/25 of 30 September 2016;

4. *Strongly encourages* States to participate actively in the sessions of the Expert Mechanism and to engage in dialogue with it, including during its intersessional activities;

5. *Urges* States and other potential donors to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, and recalls the expansion of its mandate in order to support the participation of indigenous peoples, including indigenous women, young persons and persons with disabilities, in United Nations business and human rights and climate change processes;

6. *Acknowledges* the efforts of States, indigenous peoples and United Nations agencies to engage with the Expert Mechanism under its current mandate to facilitate dialogue, when agreeable to all parties, to provide technical assistance and coordination in order to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, encourages all parties to consider the Expert Mechanism's initiation of country engagements upon the request of States and indigenous peoples, and acknowledges the engagement of those States that have already collaborated with the Expert Mechanism under its current mandate;

7. *Notes* that the next study of the Expert Mechanism, to be finalized by its fifteenth session, will focus on treaties, agreements, constructive arrangements and ongoing processes, and acknowledges the efforts made to improve complementarity and to avoid duplication among the reports prepared by the Expert Mechanism, the Special Rapporteur and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues;

8. *Acknowledges* the progress and outcomes of and lessons learned from the International Year of Indigenous Languages in 2019 through the activities led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

9. *Recalls* the proclamation of the period 2022–2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages to draw attention to the critical loss of indigenous peoples' languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous peoples' languages and to take urgent steps at the national and international levels,⁸ and calls upon States to promote the effective and meaningful participation of indigenous peoples in leading and holding activities to mark the Decade;

⁶ A/HRC/48/30.

⁷ A/HRC/46/72 and A/HRC/48/73.

⁸ General Assembly resolution 74/135.

10. *Takes note* of the outcome document of the high-level event held in February 2020 on the occasion of the closing of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, entitled “Los Pinos Declaration [Chapoltepek] – Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages”, and of the establishment, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, of the Global Task Force for Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

11. *Decides* that the theme of the annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples, to be held during the fifty-first session of the Human Rights Council, will be the impact of social and economic recovery plans in the COVID-19 context on indigenous peoples, with a special focus on food security, and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to encourage and facilitate the participation of indigenous women and to make the discussion fully accessible to persons with disabilities, and to prepare a summary report on the discussion and to submit it to the Council prior to its fifty-third session;

12. *Encourages* all stakeholders, in their responses to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, to work in collaboration with indigenous peoples’ representatives and institutions, guided by the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to refer to the guidelines of the Office of the High Commissioner⁹ on this matter;

13. *Recalls* the summary report prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner on the half-day intersessional interactive dialogue held on 15 July 2019 on ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples’ representatives and institutions in meetings of the Human Rights Council on issues affecting them, and the intersessional round table held on 16 July 2021 on ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples’ representatives and institutions in meetings of the Council on issues affecting them, and looks forward to the report on the round table;

14. *Decides* to continue to discuss further steps and measures necessary to enable and to facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples’ representatives and institutions in the work of the Human Rights Council, in particular in dialogues with the Expert Mechanism and the Special Rapporteur and in the annual half-day discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples;

15. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to convene a four-day expert workshop in 2022, open to the participation of States, and of indigenous peoples from the seven indigenous sociocultural regions, including by inviting the submission of written contributions, on possible ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples in the work of the Human Rights Council, and to prepare a summary report on the discussion and the resulting recommendations and to submit it to the Council prior to its fifty-third session;

16. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, when preparing for the expert workshop, to seek input from States, indigenous peoples, the Expert Mechanism, the Special Rapporteur and other relevant United Nations bodies, within their respective mandates, and to take into account the relevant work already done by stakeholders, including the Human Rights Council and the Secretary-General, on enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them;

17. *Invites* the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, within the Fund’s rules and established procedures, to assist representatives of indigenous peoples’ organizations and institutions to participate in the above-mentioned expert workshop, promoting balanced regional representation;

18. *Encourages* the Expert Mechanism to continue its discussions on the issue of enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples’ representatives and institutions in the relevant meetings of the Human Rights Council on issues affecting them;

19. *Encourages* States to give due consideration to the rights of indigenous peoples and the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by indigenous peoples and

⁹ See www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/IPeoples/OHCHRGuidance_COVID19_IndigenouspeoplesRights.pdf.

individuals, including potential setbacks and aggravated barriers caused by COVID-19, in fulfilling the commitments undertaken in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the formulation of relevant international and regional programmes, as well as national action plans, strategies and programmes, applying the principle of leaving no one behind;

20. *Urges* States to take appropriate measures to protect indigenous children and young persons, particularly girls, from violence, and to ensure that all perpetrators of such violence are held accountable;

21. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur, the Expert Mechanism and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to strengthen their ongoing cooperation and coordination and ongoing efforts to promote the rights of indigenous peoples, including in treaties and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the follow-up to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and invites them to continue to work in close cooperation with all Human Rights Council mechanisms and the human rights treaty bodies, within their respective mandates;

22. *Encourages* the development of a process to facilitate the international repatriation of indigenous peoples' sacred items and human remains, in cooperation with indigenous peoples and through the continued engagement of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the Expert Mechanism, the Special Rapporteur, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, States and all other relevant parties in accordance with their mandates;

23. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations treaty bodies are important mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights, and encourages States to give serious consideration to their recommendations, including those regarding indigenous peoples, in the application of treaties;

24. *Welcomes* the contribution of the universal periodic review to the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples, encourages effective follow-up to accepted review recommendations concerning indigenous peoples, and invites States to include, as appropriate, information on the situation of the rights of indigenous peoples, including measures taken to pursue the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, during their reviews;

25. *Calls upon* States to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by adopting measures, including national action plans, legislation or other frameworks, as required, to pursue its objectives in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, taking into account the use of their languages;

26. *Calls upon* States in all regions that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization to consider doing so, taking into account its contribution to the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples;

27. *Welcomes* the role of national human rights institutions established in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) in advancing indigenous issues, and recognizes the importance for such institutions of developing and strengthening their capacities, as appropriate, to fulfil that role effectively;

28. *Encourages* States, according to their relevant national context and characteristics, to collect and securely disseminate data disaggregated by ethnicity, income, gender, age, race, migratory status, disability, geographic location or other factors, as appropriate, in order to monitor and improve the impact of development policies, strategies and programmes aimed at improving the well-being of indigenous peoples and individuals, to combat and eliminate violence and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against them, to include the specific needs and priorities of indigenous peoples in addressing the global COVID-19 outbreak and to support work towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda;

29. *Also encourages* States to work with indigenous peoples to strengthen technologies, practices and efforts related to addressing and responding to climate change,

and recognizes the importance of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform for the exchange of experience and the sharing of best practices on mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner;

30. *Reaffirms* the importance of promoting the political, social and economic empowerment of indigenous women and girls, including by ensuring access to quality and inclusive education and through meaningful participation in the economy by addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers that they face, including violence, and of promoting their participation in relevant decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas while respecting and protecting their traditional and ancestral knowledge, noting the importance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for indigenous women and girls, and encourages States to give serious consideration to the above-mentioned recommendations, as appropriate;

31. *Notes with great concern* the increase in cases of reprisal against indigenous human rights defenders, indigenous peoples' representatives attending United Nations meetings and United Nations mandate holders working on the rights of indigenous peoples, and expresses its concern at the practice of some countries hosting meetings on indigenous issues of intentionally delaying or denying entry visas to United Nations mandate holders;

32. *Urges* States to take all measures necessary to ensure the rights, protection and safety of indigenous peoples and indigenous human rights defenders, including indigenous women human rights defenders, and to ensure that all human rights violations and abuses against them are prevented and investigated and that the perpetrators are held accountable;

33. *Invites* States and potential donors to support the work of the United Nations Indigenous Peoples Partnership and the system-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

34. *Urges* States and invites other public and/or private actors or institutions to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples as an important means of promoting the rights of indigenous peoples worldwide and within the United Nations system;

35. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at a future session, in conformity with its annual programme of work.

*43rd meeting
8 October 2021*

[Adopted without a vote.]
