



Economic and Social Council

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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

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Draft report

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (item 4)

1. The mandate of the Permanent Forum is to advise the Economic and Social Council on indigenous peoples' issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. In addition, the Forum is tasked with promoting respect for and the full application of the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and following up on their effective implementation.

2. To achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and other instruments promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples, in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, is crucial.

Economic and social development

3. Building on the recommendation contained in paragraph 16 of its report on its sixteenth session ([E/2017/43-E/C.19/2017/11](#)), the Permanent Forum strongly encourages United Nations resident coordinators and country teams to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, including indigenous women and youth, in the preparation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and country programme action plans.



4. The Permanent Forum urges Member States to provide financial support to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples to support the work of the Forum in implementing its mandate and to the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues to facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples in key United Nations meetings and processes. The Forum recommends that Member States, private foundations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations support the work of indigenous-led funding initiatives.

Culture

5. The Permanent Forum acknowledges the organization of the World Indigenous Games, held in 2015 in Brazil and in 2017 in Canada, which illustrated and highlighted, among others, articles 31 and 43 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Forum welcomes the agreement by indigenous peoples from various regions to hold the third World Indigenous Games in 2020. It encourages Member States and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to support the preparations for the organization of the third World Indigenous Games and other indigenous-led sport initiatives at all levels.

6. The Permanent Forum recalls the recommendation contained in paragraph 39 of its report on its sixteenth session, in which States were encouraged to continue cooperating with indigenous peoples to develop fair, transparent and effective mechanisms for the repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains at the national and international levels.

7. The traditional food systems of indigenous peoples depend on a healthy environment and access to traditional resources and play an important role in maintaining the communities' cultures and identities as well as their health and well-being. The Permanent Forum encourages indigenous peoples, Member States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and civil society organizations to raise awareness and promote the food cultures of indigenous peoples through support for indigenous peoples' food systems and broadening access to traditional resources.

Education

8. The Permanent Forum remains concerned about the state of formal education for indigenous youth and calls on Member States to fully fund indigenous-led, bilingual primary, secondary and tertiary education programmes, including mobile education initiatives for nomadic and semi-nomadic communities.

Health

9. The Permanent Forum welcomes the participation of indigenous midwives at its eighteenth session and recognizes the important role that they play in maternal and child health. Indigenous women have both higher morbidity and mortality rates as a result of lack of access to health care, as well as discrimination and marginalization. The practices and knowledge of indigenous midwives are crucial to the health of indigenous peoples. Unfortunately, the criminalization of indigenous midwives persists, with a devastating impact not only for the midwives themselves but also for the mothers, children and communities.

10. The Permanent Forum repeats its call for an end to the criminalization of indigenous midwives as expressed in the recommendations contained in paragraphs 49 and 50 of its report on its seventeenth session ([E/2018/43-E/C.19/2018/11](#)) and urges Member States to respect the right of indigenous peoples to maintain their traditional health practices in accordance with article 24 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

11. In the context of the implementation of the Policy on Ethnicity and Health, adopted by the executive committee of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in 2017 (document CE160.R11), the Permanent Forum invites PAHO to collaborate with health institutions and policymakers in the Americas to implement the recommendations of the Forum related to the practice of indigenous midwifery. It recommends that PAHO prepare a study on the advancements on indigenous maternal health as well as best practices used by indigenous midwives and supportive organizations. The Forum invites PAHO to submit the report by 2020.

12. The Permanent Forum welcomes the study on tuberculosis and indigenous peoples (E/C.19/2019/9) by expert member Mariam Wallet Aboubacrine and urges Member States to implement the recommendations contained in the study, with the support of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds and in cooperation with indigenous peoples.

13. The Permanent Forum recommends that the World Health Organization (WHO) engage indigenous health experts in efforts to eradicate tuberculosis, including through intercultural approaches, and to report to the Forum at its nineteenth session on the work done.

14. The Permanent Forum calls on the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues to organize a workshop on indigenous peoples and HIV/AIDS and on sexual and reproductive health by 2020 and urges Member States, in collaboration with indigenous peoples, to contribute to the workshop.

15. The Permanent Forum reiterates the recommendation contained in paragraph 47 of its report on its seventeenth session and calls on Member States to begin work on a global, legally binding regime for toxic industrial chemicals and hazardous pesticides under the Rotterdam Convention.

Human rights

16. The Permanent Forum is deeply disturbed by apparent widespread policies and practices in previous years of forced sterilization of indigenous women. This violation of women's rights is exacerbated by the likely intention to restrict or reduce the population of the indigenous peoples.

17. The Permanent Forum requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNFPA and WHO to take the lead, in collaboration with the Human Reproduction Research Programme, in conducting an initial study on the global scope of past forced sterilization programmes and to determine whether such programmes continue to exist, and to report to the Forum at its nineteenth session on the progress made.

Indigenous women and gender

18. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues reiterates its invitation to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to adopt a general recommendation on indigenous women by 2020, in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other international instruments. The Forum recommends that the general recommendation on indigenous women consider issues related to the individual and collective rights to equality, non-discrimination and self-determination; social and economic rights, including the rights to decent work and to land, territory and resources; the right to water and food; cultural rights; civil and political rights; and the right to live free of any form of violence.

19. The Permanent Forum reiterates the recommendation contained in paragraph 40 of its report on its seventeenth session, in which it recommended that the Commission on the Status of Women organize a high-level interactive dialogue on the rights of indigenous women, to coincide with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, in 2020, to review progress made towards the Sustainable Development Goals with a focus on linkages with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Forum invites Member States, in cooperation with indigenous peoples' organizations and with the support of the United Nations system, to conduct preparatory processes, with the full and effective participation of indigenous women of all ages.

20. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Economic and Social Council approve an international expert group meeting, as soon as possible, to draw attention to ongoing issues of human trafficking, impunity and the failure of police and justice systems to respond to cases of missing and murdered indigenous women.

21. The Permanent Forum notes the representation from indigenous persons who seek recognition of and respect for the identity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex persons within the populations of indigenous peoples. In particular, the Saami Parliaments of Finland, Norway and Sweden are being encouraged to respond positively to a request made by Saami persons during the session. The Forum affirms that the exercise of the right to self-determination requires indigenous peoples to promote and protect non-discrimination and equality for individuals in their communities.

Children and youth

22. The Permanent Forum welcomes the launch of the publication *Global Indigenous Youth: Through their Eyes* by the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus and the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University. The Forum recommends that international organizations, indigenous youth organizations, academia and other stakeholders undertake similar initiatives to raise awareness on the challenges facing indigenous youth.
