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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

Discussion on the theme “Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16”

1. The aim of Sustainable Development Goal 16 is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. This ambitious and important goal can only be met with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides a clear framework for the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples, recognizing their right to self-determination and self-governance, participation in decision-making and access to justice.

2. The Declaration also recognizes indigenous peoples’ rights to the lands, territories and resources that they have traditionally owned or occupied. It is worth noting that these same territories contain 80 per cent of the world’s biological diversity. Indigenous peoples have proven themselves to be wise managers of their lands, which they have developed in a sustainable manner. This is especially important given that conflicts frequently arise over competition for natural resources, including in border regions, as the traditional territories of indigenous peoples often straddle national borders. Indigenous peoples’ management of these lands, territories and resources is not only good for the environment and biological diversity, but is also important for maintaining international peace and security.

3. It is also vital that Governments recognize indigenous peoples’ institutions, especially their representative institutions. These institutions help promote and



protect the cultures, livelihoods, identities and languages of indigenous peoples and other essential elements of their lives. These institutions should be supported and strengthened as essential elements of diverse and multicultural States. The Permanent Forum notes that many Governments already recognize indigenous peoples' representative institutions at the municipal and national levels. However, they are not yet recognized at the international level.

4. The recognition of indigenous peoples' representative institutions is particularly pertinent in conflict-affected and post-conflict regions. Indigenous peoples' role in peacebuilding is essential for reconciliation and for strengthening resilience to extremism and radicalization, particularly among indigenous youth. Indigenous peoples' institutions should be viewed by States as allies in the efforts of the Security Council to establish peace and security.

5. Peace and security are important at all levels. The Permanent Forum is deeply troubled by continuing accounts of violence against indigenous women and girls across the globe. The Permanent Forum hears the stories of indigenous women and girls who are murdered or go missing year after year, with little visible progress. Furthermore, such violence is perpetrated with callous impunity that must be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency.

6. The Permanent Forum is concerned by the killings, violence and harassment targeted at indigenous human rights defenders, which are also frequently committed with impunity. The Permanent Forum is concerned that, despite international **condemnation recognition**, these criminal acts of violence persist, especially in a small number of countries in South and Central America, Africa and Asia.

7. The Permanent Forum recognizes the importance of the signing of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace in Colombia. The Permanent Forum urges Colombia to promote and guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples, in particular by achieving the goals and indicators set out in the "ethnic chapter" of the peace agreement. The Permanent Forum urges the Special Jurisdiction for Peace of Colombia to prioritize the conduct of a high-profile investigation to highlight the violations of the collective rights of indigenous peoples that occurred during the armed conflict and to identify the patterns and perpetrators of this violence.

8. Climate change threatens the very existence of many communities in both the immediate and long term, while deforestation, increased urbanization and industrial agriculture continue to put pressure on the territories and ecosystems in which indigenous peoples live. Large-scale infrastructure development and the exploitation of natural resources, including minerals critical for so-called green technologies, in indigenous territories by private and State-owned companies, without the participation and consent of the affected peoples, leads to the loss of livelihoods, culture and identity. Moreover, legitimate protests and opposition to such activities on indigenous lands are increasingly being criminalized.

[SEPARATE INTO TWO PARAGRAPHS. START NEW PARAGRAPH HERE]

The global engagement of indigenous peoples at the international level has led to some positive institutional developments, including the establishment of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples can play an important role in the fight against climate change. **Member States and UN entities should ensure that any activities related to the use of the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples respect Indigenous peoples' own protocols and consent agreements for managing access to their traditional knowledge.**

Strengthening and ensuring the full participation of indigenous peoples at all levels is also critical for the design and implementation of climate policies, plans, programmes and projects at the local, national and global levels.

9. The Permanent Forum commits to facilitating informal online regional dialogues between Member States and indigenous peoples on autonomy and self-governance to support the development of guiding principles for the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples to autonomy and self-government. The Permanent Forum ~~requests~~ **invites** ~~the support of~~ the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous People's Issues **to participate** in the organization of these regional dialogues and in the preparation of a discussion paper on this matter to be presented at the twenty-first session of the Forum. The Permanent Forum also **invites** ~~requests~~ ~~the cooperation of~~ the Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples **to encourage** ~~in encouraging~~ the active participation of Member States in this endeavour.

10. The Permanent Forum also commits to facilitating a process among indigenous peoples and Member States with the aim of rethinking and supporting international efforts to ensure peace, security and peacebuilding and ensuring the effective participation of indigenous peoples in these processes.

[NEW PARAGRAPH] The Permanent Forum considers climate change as a driver of insecurity, exacerbating conflicts over lands, territories and resources. The Permanent Forum calls on the Security Council to consider Indigenous Peoples as partners. Close consultation with indigenous peoples is required to ensure the respect of the rights of indigenous peoples in conflict and post conflict situations.

[NEW PARAGRAPH] Private sector stakeholders should, in the application of their guidelines and safeguard policies ensure the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Respect for the free, prior and informed consent is essential for enabling indigenous peoples to participate in, and engage with, private sector activities, including in forestry, agriculture, fishing and extractive industries.