



# Economic and Social Council

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## Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

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### Draft report

*Rapporteur:* Ms. Paimaneh **Hasteh**

## 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 Economic and Social Council

#### Comprehensive dialogue with the United Nations Children's Fund

1. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held a comprehensive dialogue with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on 23 May 2011. The Permanent Forum welcomed the participation of UNICEF, noted its large delegation and expressed appreciation for its detailed and informative report on activities in support of indigenous peoples (E/C.19/2011/7).

2. The Permanent Forum acknowledges the equity policy of UNICEF and pays particular attention to vulnerable indigenous children and youth in terms of food security, shelter, health and education. UNICEF, in developing its indigenous peoples policy, should consider the standards set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in relation to indigenous children and youth.

3. The Permanent Forum posed questions to UNICEF addressing a number of issues, including:

(a) The various types of obstacles posed to the Fund's work with indigenous peoples and whether these were similar in the various regions of the world;

(b) How the participation of indigenous organizations, indigenous authorities or communities, and indigenous youth was being ensured in UNICEF projects implemented outside Latin America;



(c) How the Fund's work with minorities and indigenous peoples differed in various regions of the world;

(d) How UNICEF projects focused on indigenous children might differ from Fund projects directed at children in general;

(e) Whether UNICEF had a specific budget to fulfil its mandate with regard to indigenous children;

(f) What degree of importance UNICEF attached to guaranteeing access to medicines and treatments for indigenous children living with HIV and AIDS;

(g) How UNICEF addressed the problem of indigenous child soldiers;

(h) What type of policy UNICEF applied to carrying out bilingual and intercultural education in communities with a majority indigenous population;

(i) Whether UNICEF had information regarding child pornography and the illegal trafficking of indigenous children, and how it was addressing those problems;

(j) Whether the Fund's work with indigenous children differed in terms of indigenous boys and girls;

(k) What measures UNICEF was taking to empower and involve indigenous youth in developing its policies for them;

(l) What efforts UNICEF was making to promote and protect the rights of indigenous children in industrialized countries;

(m) In what manner UNICEF was addressing the impact of migration on indigenous children;

(n) What advances UNICEF was making in the development of its organizational framework regarding its work with indigenous children.

4. The Permanent Forum requests that UNICEF operationalize and implement its strategic framework on indigenous and minority children and report to the Forum in 2012 on measures undertaken to that end.

5. The Permanent Forum requests that UNICEF, when completing its strategic policy framework on indigenous peoples, include indigenous youth in the design of the policy. In addition, particular attention is needed to reflect the diversity among indigenous children and to focus on vulnerable groups such as victims of human trafficking and child pornography, as well as groups facing manifold discrimination based on gender, disability or sexual orientation.

6. In support of their country-level programming, and with a view to a deeper appreciation of indigenous peoples' perceptions of such interventions, UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) should undertake a study on the social, cultural, legal and spiritual institutions of indigenous peoples and how these affect the rights of women and children as laid out in local, regional and global frameworks.

7. The Permanent Forum requests that UNICEF prepare a report on the state of the world's children, with a thematic focus on indigenous children. The report should give special attention to the implementation by member States of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and general comment No. 11 of the Committee on the Rights of

the Child. Furthermore, the Forum requests UNICEF to begin to disaggregate data on indigenous children, including from its existing database.

8. The Permanent Forum recommends that UNICEF allocate at least one fellowship to an indigenous young person from each region every year, for a term of at least three months, to empower indigenous youth and promote knowledge and experience regarding the United Nations system and the work of the Fund, including financial support.

9. Bearing in mind the principle of free, prior and informed consent as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum recommends that relevant UNICEF materials be translated into the languages of and made accessible to the indigenous peoples with whom the Fund is working so that they can participate fully in the planning and implementation of projects that directly or indirectly affect them.

10. UNICEF should consider developing projects to benefit indigenous children in developed countries as required, taking into consideration that many indigenous children in such countries, mainly those living in rural areas, face the same problems as indigenous children in developing countries.

11. The Permanent Forum requests that UNICEF coordinate its activities and operations with the United Nations Programme on Youth, the secretariat of the Forum and the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus to ensure the participation of indigenous youth in the upcoming High-Level Meeting on Youth.

12. The Permanent Forum requests that UNICEF recognize and respect the right of free, prior and informed consent in the preparation and implementation of its strategic policy framework on indigenous peoples.

13. The Permanent Forum recommends that UNICEF continue to gather data on the issue of children and migration and information on the effects of migration on children, recognizing in particular the situation of indigenous children, the risks of serious exploitation such as trafficking in human beings for various purposes, and the restoration of rights to victims and vulnerable children, such as street children, through all country-level programmes.

14. The Permanent Forum requests that UNICEF design, in partnership with other relevant United Nations agencies, a protocol for emergency situations resulting from natural disasters to ensure that, in cases of emergency, there are no violations of the human rights of indigenous peoples, especially indigenous youth, children and women, owing to forced relocation.

15. The Permanent Forum recommends that UNICEF establish a particular budget and strengthen programmes and projects for indigenous children and youth.

16. The Permanent Forum requests that UNICEF and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization support intercultural and bilingual education programmes in conjunction with the indigenous peoples concerned, paying special attention to the right of girls to primary and secondary education.

17. The Permanent Forum commends UNICEF and UNFPA for their work to combat female genital mutilation practices and urges them to continue their efforts with indigenous peoples and their communities.