

This statement is made on behalf of the newly-formed Indigenous Language Caucus that facilitates information-sharing among Indigenous Peoples and educating with our Indigenous languages. Indigenous languages promote peace and security by supporting Indigenous knowledge, resolving and preventing conflict, strengthening communities to prepare for climate change, and empowering women who traditionally transmit language to children. We congratulate the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues for having conducted a study about Indigenous languages and we support the recommendations made on the report.

As the report mentioned Indigenous Languages go extinct at an alarming rate, approximately one every two weeks. By 2030, approximately 500 Indigenous languages are projected to be lost. With that, Indigenous Knowledge, cultures, health, sustainable practices, and identities would also disappear. In order to avoid this, we recommend the following:

- For the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office (UNDOCO) to require the UN Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams and UN Support Group, to include in the UN Development Assistance Frameworks and the individual plans and programmes of UN development agencies, actions on protecting and reviving Indigenous languages, especially threatened and endangered languages. Resident Coordinators should report periodically to UNDOCO and the UN Development Group, and through these, to ECOSOC and the General Assembly about progress toward Indigenous language revitalization and best practices of supporting the most endangered Indigenous languages and what methodology is followed.
- We urge UNESCO to fulfill its mandate to protect cultural diversity. Taking into account the millennial, scientific, and cultural value of disappearing Indigenous languages, we call on the General Assembly to ensure UNESCO has enough funds and staff for programs, promoting a presence in all countries with threatened and endangered Indigenous languages. We call the General Assembly to fund a UNESCO department to work on Indigenous Language Revitalization in consultation with Indigenous Peoples. In order to make more effective its work, UNESCO should empower its Indigenous Languages department to implement Indigenous language revitalization with all interested Indigenous communities.
- We urge treaty bodies and human rights mechanisms to evaluate Indigenous Language protection as a human right according to existing Human Rights instruments and the UN Charter taking into account that not doing that is a discriminatory act and amounts to cultural genocide. Additionally, we urge the Human Rights Council to conduct a study about the creation of a Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Languages. The creation of this new mechanism does not duplicate existing mechanism, given that its mandate will be specific.
- With regard to the creation of a specific fund to support Indigenous languages revitalization, full immersion schools for Indigenous languages and the Mother Tongue Based Intercultural Multilingual Program, we consider that this fund should be supported not only by States but also by churches and other institutions of organized religion, many of which have historical responsibility for the loss of our languages and cultures, and should consequently take responsibility for that, funding Indigenous language revitalization and publically apologizing for their role in the loss of indigenous languages.
- Governments must support Indigenous Peoples reporting on our own determined indicators toward the progress of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in national action plans, especially SDG 4.5 that calls on all UN Members individually and the UN to eliminate by 2030, gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations. UNCSD and Agenda 2030 should

streamline Indigenous access to direct reporting on SDGs.

When adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations and its Member States pledged that no one will be left behind. They also pledged their work would be firmly grounded in international human rights norms including the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to achieve a world of human rights and human dignity, with equality and non-discrimination, and respect for race, gender, ethnicity and cultural diversity. This can only be achieved through adoption of the above five measures.

Thank you,

[indigenousslanguagescaucus@gmail.com](mailto:indigenousslanguagescaucus@gmail.com)