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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

Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues (Item 6)

1. Indigenous Peoples have been a distinct constituency at the United Nations since 1977 and with the adoption of the UNDRIP by the UN General Assembly in 2007, their inherent rights were affirmed as the international minimum standard. The Permanent Forum reiterates the position of the Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Human Rights Council on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, noting that it is unacceptable to undermine their status and standing by combining or equating them with non-Indigenous entities such as minorities, vulnerable groups or local communities. Such attempts, whether by States or UN bodies themselves, are not acceptable and will be challenged by Indigenous Peoples and those mandated to defend their rights. The Permanent Forum urges all UN entities and State parties to treaties within, inter alia, environment, biodiversity, and climate to eliminate the term “local communities” in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples so that the term “Indigenous Peoples and local communities” (IPLC) is abolished and replaced simply with “Indigenous Peoples”.
2. The Permanent Forum underlines the importance of recognition by States of indigenous peoples living on their territories, which is one of the key guarantees of the protection of their rights and interests in line with relevant international norms and standards, in particular the UNDRIP.
3. Ensuring a human rights-based approach to Indigenous Peoples’ rights to land, waters, territories and resources, governance, and secure customary tenure is



essential for their continued contribution and significant role in achieving the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Indigenous land, waters, and territories need to be recognized directly and as a category separate from Protected Areas or “Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures”, including recognition of the land rights of Indigenous women. A core element of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework should be the development of indicators reflecting Indigenous Peoples’ rights, for monitoring and implementation. There is an urgent and continuing need for the resource mobilization for Indigenous Peoples, including for Indigenous women, to ensure their participation in shaping and implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework. In this regard the Permanent Forum acknowledges the recommendation to organize an expert meeting to develop and study the options and mechanisms on direct access to funding to be transmitted to the Secretariat of the CBD. Furthermore, the Permanent Forum supports the continuation of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Article 8j of the CBD and urges the Member States to ensure adequate support to ensure a robust work programme.

4. The Forum recommends that UN entities review language and terminology on native breeds, local seed varieties, and endemic varieties of plants, and animals. The Forum recommends differentiating such terminology from Indigenous Peoples’ foods, seeds, and breeds, by avoiding the use of the term “Indigenous” to avoid confusion.
5. The Permanent Forum notes the importance of several concurrent United Nations Decades, that are of importance to indigenous peoples. The Permanent Forum recommends the UN entities responsible for international decades declared by the General Assembly, including the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” and Decade of Indigenous Languages to ensure good communication and coordinate efforts for the participation of Indigenous Peoples and their issues. In this regard, the Permanent Forum recommends the relevant UN entities report to UNDESA, who are invited to prepare a study on the funding, modalities and scale of Indigenous Peoples’ participation in all four international decades. The Permanent Forum further invites Member States to support and fund cooperation over the four Decades to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples.
6. The Permanent Forum welcomes the UN Human Rights Council Resolution 48/13 and calls on the UN General Assembly to reaffirm and reenforce the human right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment at a broader organizational level.
7. The Forum applauds the creation of the Coalition on Indigenous Peoples’ Food Systems and will contribute to its efforts. Furthermore, the Forum will invite discussions on Indigenous Peoples preparations for the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.
8. The Permanent Forum recognizes the importance of exploring possibilities for strengthening cooperation with human rights treaty bodies on issues of relevance to the mandate of the Forum. Therefore, the Permanent Forum invites the Chairpersons of Treaty Bodies to designate a representative to participate in the twenty-second session of the Permanent Forum in 2023.
9. The Permanent Forum recalls its request at its fifteenth session that UNESCO host a joint seminar with the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other relevant United Nations mechanisms for the purpose of

exploring the development of a new international mechanism on the repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains. In this regard, the Permanent Forum regrets deeply the absence of UNESCO at the expert group meeting organized by the EMRIP in March 2020 in British Columbia to discuss steps for the implementation of such a mechanism. The Permanent Forum recommends UNESCO's leadership, involvement, and cooperation in the work of implementing recommendations of the EMRIP meeting as well as the previous recommendation of the Permanent Forum related to the repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains including the creation of an international database inventory of such items accessible to Indigenous Peoples as a basis for initiating dialogue. The Permanent Forum reminds UNESCO and other UN entities that the repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains is enshrined in UNDRIP Articles 11 and 12.

10. September 2024 marks 10 years since UN General Assembly adoption of the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and its Annex, the Alta Outcome Document. The Permanent Forum calls on the UN Secretary General and the President of the General Assembly to organize a World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Plus 10 in August 2024 to allow Member States, UN entities and Indigenous Peoples to report on implementation of the Outcome Document, with the full participation of Indigenous Peoples.
 11. The Permanent Forum recommends that the UN Secretary General actively support the enhanced participation of Indigenous Peoples by participating in the UN General Assembly process, associated regional dialogues and meeting with the Temporary Committee for the Indigenous Coordinating Body for Enhanced Participation in the UN. Furthermore, the Permanent Forum urges Member States to consult with Indigenous Peoples nationally, regionally and internationally on enhanced participation and provide financial support to related activities to ensure full, effective, direct and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples in this process.
 12. The Forum decides to appoint members to conduct studies at a later date to present to the 22nd Session in 2023.
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