



## Economic and Social Council

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### Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

#### Eleventh session

New York, 7-18 May 2012

Agenda item 4

#### Human rights

### Recommendations of the Permanent Forum

1. Since the adoption in 2007 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, few States have entered into effective dialogue or partnerships or have undertaken adequate legal reforms to implement the Declaration.
2. The Permanent Forum urges States to provide detailed reports to the Forum on the implementation of the Declaration. It recommends public education initiatives and best practices in respect of the Declaration, in particular through training programmes for government agencies, the judiciary and law enforcement officials, in collaboration with indigenous peoples. Furthermore, the Forum recommends that such reports be included in the periodic reports mandated under human rights treaties and the universal periodic review procedures.
3. The Permanent Forum reiterates that indigenous peoples should report to the Forum on how they are implementing the Declaration in their own communities, thereby contributing to the growing evidence of how the principles enshrined in the Declaration are being practised.
4. The Permanent Forum invites members of all United Nations human rights treaty bodies, in particular the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to attend the annual sessions of the Permanent Forum, as observers, with the objective of increasing awareness about the distinct human rights and cultural contexts of indigenous peoples so as to enhance their work in relation to indigenous peoples and the Declaration.
5. The Permanent Forum reiterates the need for States to address the impact of militarization, including appropriation of land, forcible occupation and displacement, on the land, territorial and other collective rights of indigenous peoples, perpetrated by security forces, including the military, militias and other armed groups.
6. Mindful of the systemic racism experienced by indigenous peoples in the law enforcement, judicial and correctional institutions of States across the globe, the Permanent Forum urges States that have ratified the International Covenant on Civil



and Political Rights to comprehensively review the civil rights of indigenous peoples, in particular those of indigenous women and children who are victims of sexual violence, in order to ensure that they have fair, non-discriminatory access to justice.

7. The Permanent Forum urges States to promote models for the health, social, legal and other sectors of indigenous communities and service providers to follow in implementing the Declaration. It recommends that the World Health Organization (WHO) revisit the report of the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health to address the cultural determinants of health, such as land, language, ceremony and identity, which are essential to the health and well-being of indigenous peoples.

8. The Permanent Forum reiterates the call, made at its tenth session, to United Nations agencies and funds to conduct and support regional and international human rights training programmes aimed at building the capacity and advocacy skills of indigenous youth. Furthermore, the Forum recommends the use of social media, youth forums and other popular cultural forms of communication to disseminate information and training material on the rights of indigenous youth and to facilitate consultation processes at the national and international levels.

9. The Permanent Forum urges States to promote and protect the rights of indigenous women and men working as journalists and as human rights defenders in accordance with international human rights law, in particular in accordance with article 16 of the Declaration, which calls for the full freedom of expression of indigenous peoples.

10. The Permanent Forum urges States to prepare reports on the actions taken to address the recommendations of all United Nations special rapporteurs, in particular the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, especially the recommendations made at the conclusion of country visits, and encourages States to monitor their progress in this regard, in collaboration with indigenous peoples, United Nations country teams and all other relevant parties. Furthermore, the Forum reiterates that national human rights institutions are encouraged to assist indigenous peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples in the implementation of the Declaration.

11. Mindful of the human rights violations experienced by indigenous peoples, the Permanent Forum encourages States, in particular those in the Pacific region, to recognize and implement the basic fundamental human rights articulated in the Declaration, particularly the right to self-determination.

12. The Permanent Forum recommends that the full, effective and direct representation and participation of indigenous peoples, including their indigenous governments, councils, parliaments and other political institutions, should be ensured at all United Nations forums and multilateral, bilateral negotiations, as well as in the drafting processes of the corresponding emerging instruments. Such instruments must be harmonized with the Declaration, which is regarded as a reflection of the minimum human rights standards necessary for the promotion and protection of indigenous peoples, nations and communities. Such instruments should be consistent with or exceed these minimum standards.