United Nations

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Report on the fourth session (16-27 May 2005)

Economic and Social Council
Official Records
Supplement No. 23
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Report on the fourth session
(16-27 May 2005)
Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.
Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions recommended by the Forum for adoption by the Council

1. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

International expert group meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, indigenous participation and good governance

The Economic and Social Council decides to authorize a three-day international expert group meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, indigenous participation and good governance, with the participation of representatives of the United Nations system and three members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and invites other interested intergovernmental organizations, experts from indigenous organizations and interested Member States to participate as well, and requests the meeting to report to the Forum at its fifth session under the special theme of that session.

Draft decision II

Venue and dates for the fifth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Economic and Social Council decides that the fifth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held at United Nations Headquarters from 15 to 26 May 2006.

Draft decision III

Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Economic and Social Council approves the following provisional agenda and documentation for the fifth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Special theme: the Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: redefining the Goals:* 
   (a) Millennium Development Goals development and consultation;

* Goals 3 to 8 will be addressed through indigenous approaches to cultural diversity, traditional knowledge and human rights; this applies equally to Millennium Development Goals country reports and poverty reduction strategy papers.
(b) Cross-cutting approaches to the implementation and monitoring of the Goals;
(c) Follow-up on Goals 1 and 2;

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat and other documents to be submitted by the United Nations system

4. Ongoing priorities and themes:
   (a) Discussion of the analytical paper, with a concise compilation of the recommendations of the first three sessions of the Forum and the status of their implementation at the national, regional and international levels;
   (b) Human rights, with special emphasis on interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of the human rights situation and fundamental freedom of indigenous people;
   (c) Indigenous children, youth (2003) and women (2004);
   (d) Data collection (2004);
   (e) Free, prior and informed consent (2004);
   (f) Half-day discussion on Africa;
   (g) Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat and other documents to be submitted by the United Nations system

5. Future work of the Forum.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat and other documents to be submitted by the United Nations system and special rapporteurs of the Forum

7. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fifth session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The Forum has identified the proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action set out below and, through the Council, recommends that States, United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples, the private sector and non-governmental organizations assist in their realization.
3. It is the understanding of the Secretariat that the proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action to be carried out by the United Nations as set out below will be implemented to the extent that resources from the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources are available.

1. Special theme: Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals: “Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger”, to be addressed under the following thematic approach of combating poverty: good practices and barriers to implementation

4. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues notes that the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in connection with indigenous peoples must be viewed within the broader context of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which brings together the three basic aims of the Charter of the United Nations: peace and security, economic and social development, and human rights. Indigenous peoples have the right to benefit from the Millennium Development Goals and from other goals and aspirations contained in the Millennium Declaration to the same extent as all others. Indigenous and tribal peoples are lagging behind other parts of the population in the achievement of the goals in most, if not all, the countries in which they live, and indigenous and tribal women commonly face additional gender-based disadvantages and discrimination.

5. The Forum therefore notes with concern that indigenous issues are often absent from Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction processes and from Millennium Development Goals reports and poverty reduction strategy papers. The Forum is concerned that, unless the particular situation of indigenous peoples are adequately taken into account, some Millennium Development Goals processes may lead to accelerated loss of lands and natural resources for indigenous peoples, and thus of their means of subsistence and their displacement, as well as to accelerated assimilation and erosion of their culture.

6. The Forum recalls the recommendations made at its first three sessions on economic and social development, as well as on indigenous children, indigenous women and the other areas of its mandate, and stresses that those recommendations are valid and important towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

7. The Forum invites all the African States, the African Union and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights to its fifth session to participate in meetings on the Millennium Development Goals and their implementation in Africa during the Second Decade of the World’s Indigenous Peoples.

8. The Permanent Forum encourages the African Governments and the intergovernmental agencies to intensify dialogue among themselves under the supervision of the African Union, more precisely within the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, with special emphasis on poverty eradication based on the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples.

9. In connection with Millennium Development Goal 1, “Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger”,
the Forum wishes to draw particular attention to pertinent recommendations made at its first three sessions.¹

10. The Forum makes the additional recommendations set out below.

Framework and capacity-building

11. In implementing the Millennium Development Goals, States should ensure the absolute prohibition of racial discrimination and, where appropriate, should promote multicultural policies, affirmative action and special measures necessary for poverty reduction among indigenous communities.

12. States, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations should support the efforts of indigenous peoples to build, articulate and implement their visions of and strategies for development. They should provide adequate funding, technical and institutional support and training to enable indigenous peoples to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and for indigenous peoples to participate effectively in the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects.

13. States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia and the media should promote national dialogues and collaboration, including through the establishment of policy and institutional frameworks, as appropriate, in order to bring together indigenous peoples’ perspectives technical knowledge and priorities for sustainable human development and their expectations regarding the Millennium Development Goals. Indigenous peoples’ institutions and processes, where they exist, should be respected during these dialogues.

14. The human rights-based approach to development should be operationalized by States, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, including the international financial institutions, and should be the framework underpinning Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction strategies, programmes and activities. The recognition of indigenous peoples as distinct peoples and the respect for their individual and collective human rights, rights to lands and territories and sustainable use of natural resources are crucial for achieving a just and sustainable solution to the widespread poverty in their midst. Relevant international treaties, such as International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 169, common article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which declares that “no people shall be deprived of its own means of subsistence”, as well as bilateral State-indigenous treaties or accords, should be implemented to ensure compliance and implementation.

15. Member States, the United Nations system, bodies and funds should consider the definitions of extreme poverty by indigenous peoples and in this regard should refer to the report of the independent expert on human rights and extreme poverty (E/CN.4/2005/49). Poverty indicators based on indigenous peoples’ own perception

¹ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 23 (E/2002/43/Rev.1), para. 25 (f); ibid., 2003, Supplement No. 23 (E/2003/43), paras. 8 and 9, 15, 38 and 41-44; ibid., 2004, Supplement No. 23 (E/2004/43), paras. 9, 14, 57 and 58, 61, 64, 67, 69 and 70, and 72.
of their situation and experiences should be developed, jointly with indigenous peoples.

16. Governments, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations should develop programmes, in cooperation with indigenous peoples, to build the capacity and awareness of their staff to better understand and address indigenous issues.

**Implementation and monitoring**

17. The impact of the implementation of Millennium Development Goals on indigenous peoples should be assessed and reported in Millennium Development Goals country reports and other relevant reports by States and the United Nations system. Progressive assessment of the situation of indigenous peoples in the process of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals should be reflected in the Millennium Development Goals country reports. Guidelines for the preparation of the Millennium Development Goals reports should be refined to ensure that the coverage of the poverty situation of indigenous peoples is integrated. The Millennium Development Goals country reports should be prepared, where relevant, with the full participation of indigenous peoples.

18. The common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework, poverty reduction strategy papers, country strategy papers and other development processes, national or international, should ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, including indigenous women and, as relevant, indigenous children and youth.

19. The United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations and donor agencies should implement, at the country level, existing policies on indigenous peoples or develop such policies if they do not exist, and should strengthen the capacity of institutions to implement such policies and programmes in an effective and sustainable manner.

20. Governments, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations should, within the context of the 2005 Millennium Development Goals review and beyond, develop disaggregated data and information on indigenous peoples, in partnership with indigenous peoples. This should include a budget analysis to determine the amount of resources allotted to indigenous peoples. The Forum recommends to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean that it continue to and strengthen its efforts regarding the production, elaboration and use of relevant information from population censuses, household surveys and other adequate sources, jointly with indigenous peoples, aiming at improving socio-economic conditions and active participation of indigenous peoples in the development process throughout the Latin American and the Caribbean region.

21. States, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations should ensure the participation of indigenous peoples in designing and formulation of poverty reduction strategies as well as in the implementation and monitoring processes, and should make them visible in poverty reduction strategies, programmes and activities. Rights to indigenous land, forests, marine and other natural resources should be clearly identified in poverty reduction strategy papers documents, the role of indigenous peoples should be specified and the control by
indigenous peoples over traditional land, forests, marine and other natural resources and decisions on the type of development should be acknowledged.

22. Relations between development agencies and the organizations of indigenous peoples should be direct and not relayed through intermediate institutions of the dominant society.

23. States should recognize the rights of indigenous peoples to food and nutritional security and the sustainable production and consumption of healthy and nutritious foods by using appropriate sustainable technology. There is a particular need to ensure that indigenous peoples who depend on marine and terrestrial resources be supported in protecting and ensuring their rights to and sustainable use of those resources.

24. States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes should mobilize support for indigenous peoples who are extremely vulnerable to natural disasters.

25. The Forum encourages the World Bank to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the formulation of the forthcoming indigenous peoples’ guidebook and any revision to the operational policy BP 4.10 on indigenous peoples. The policy and practice of the World Bank and other multilateral development banks should be consistent with internationally recognized human rights of indigenous peoples. The results of the International Expert Workshop on Methodologies regarding Free, Prior and Informed Consent should serve as a guide to the World Bank in its practices pertaining to indigenous peoples.

Other follow-up


27. The Forum calls on the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue its support to the national indigenous peoples biodiversity participatory mechanisms of the small island developing States through the Convention’s island and biodiversity project and indigenous peoples programme, in the promotion of sustainable biodiversity.

28. The Forum encourages the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to recognize the importance of and emphasize support for indigenous agricultural systems, including forestry, shifting cultivation, fisheries, livestock, pastoralism and hunting-gathering systems, and their associated biodiversity, foods, knowledge systems and cultures. It encourages FAO to promote the responsible use of culturally appropriate agricultural inputs and technology so as to protect the traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples.

29. The Forum recommends that immediate steps be taken within the framework of the Commission on Sustainable Development to protect water from privatization and from bilateral and multilateral governmental agreements and other incursions that affect the integrity of waters and impoverish communities, particularly indigenous women. The Forum recommends that the Commission appoint a special rapporteur for the protection of water to gather testimony directly from indigenous communities of the world impacted by or targeted for water privatization, diversion,
toxic contamination, pollution, commodification and other environmental injustices that damage natural and potable water supplies.

30. The Forum recommends the full participation of indigenous peoples at the upcoming World Water Forum to be held in Mexico City in 2006, and the inclusion of indigenous rights and perspectives on water in that conference.

31. The Forum recommends that ILO, with the participation of interested parties, including indigenous peoples’ organizations (the United Nations system, the International Finance Corporation, the European Bank for Rural Development) conduct a workshop on capacity-building for the sustainable development of indigenous communities to ensure that Millennium Development Goals and targets are implemented in a timely and appropriate manner for indigenous peoples.

32. The Forum recommends that FAO develop a strategic plan for working with indigenous peoples by defining the FAO mission, vision and conceptual framework for indigenous peoples.

33. Furthermore, based on this plan and considering the contributions of FAO to the fight for the eradication of hunger and food insecurity and the implementation of sustainable agriculture and rural development, as well as the FAO contribution to indigenous rights through the adoption of the international treaty on genetic resources and the voluntary guidelines on the right to food, the Forum recommends that FAO consider the development of operational guidelines on indigenous peoples and a framework tool for the promotion of indigenous rights and sustainable rural development in the framework of the goals that emerged from the World Food Summit and the World Food Summit five years later, as well as those that emerged from other international conferences, summits and conventions which are relevant to indigenous peoples.

34. The Forum recommends that FAO and the Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development Initiative work further on the development of cultural indicators for identifying priorities and criteria and methodologies for the right to food and food security, with the participation of indigenous peoples, taking into account the protection and restoration of indigenous peoples’ traditional foods systems and their agrobiodiversity and associated traditional knowledge and livelihoods. The threats to sustaining such systems, such as monoculture cash crop production, mineral extraction, environmental contamination and genetically modified seeds and technology, should be addressed.

35. The Forum, recognizing the contributions of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in reducing rural poverty and its experience of good practices, recommends that IFAD consider operational guidelines on indigenous peoples and a framework tool for advocacy for promoting indigenous rights and development and achieving international development goals which emerged from international conferences, summits and conventions which are relevant for indigenous peoples.

36. The Forum recommends that the precautionary principle underpin the regulation of the introduction of technologies, such as genetically modified crops, including genetic utilization restriction technologies, “the terminator seed technology”, and further recommends that Governments ratify and implement the Biosafety Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
37. The Forum, taking note with appreciation of the conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights joint publication entitled “Indigenous peoples’ right to adequate housing: a global overview”, recommends that UN-Habitat, jointly with the Office of the High Commissioner, organize an expert group meeting in 2006 to review the status of progress on indigenous peoples’ housing rights globally and identify and document best practices, and report on the outcome and recommendations of the meeting to the Forum at its sixth session.

38. The Forum calls for the dissemination and full implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur’s reports on the relationships of indigenous peoples and land rights, and on permanent sovereignty of indigenous peoples over their natural resources and invites the Special Rapporteur, through the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, to present an updated report at the next session of the Forum.

39. The Forum welcomes the offer of the World Bank to host a workshop on indigenous peoples and poverty, and looks forward to receiving the results of the workshop in its fifth session.

40. The Forum urges States, the United Nations system, international financial institutions, international and regional trade bodies (such as the World Trade Organization, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Common Market of the South) to undertake social and human rights impact assessments of the globalization and liberalization of trade and investments on indigenous peoples’ poverty situation.

2. Special theme: Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: Goal 2 of the Millennium Development Goals: “Achieve universal primary education”, to be addressed under the thematic approaches of language, cultural perspectives and traditional knowledge


42. The Forum also recalls the Dakar Framework for Action, “Education for all: meeting our collective commitments”, especially regarding indigenous children and in particular girls.

developed by the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergency, and underlines that their recommendations should be promoted through good practices throughout the United Nations system and broadly to all Member States.

44. Furthermore, the Forum expresses its conviction that Governments should adopt special measures to achieve equitable educational outcomes for indigenous children, especially indigenous girls, and that special emphasis is required for headstart and early childhood programmes for indigenous children.

45. The Forum wishes to draw particular attention to a number of recommendations made at its first three sessions that are of particular relevance for Millennium Development Goal 2.2

46. Sport and physical education are an essential element of quality education, and promote positive values and skills which have a quick but lasting impact on young people. Sports activities and physical education generally make school more attractive and improve attendance.

Access to primary education

47. The Forum recognizes that:

(a) The right to education is a key instrument for achieving equitable development and respect for cultural diversity. Education is an investment in the future, a means to reduce poverty and counter discrimination;

(b) Indigenous peoples have the right, including treaty rights (as relevant) to quality primary education that is sensitive to their holistic worldviews, languages, traditional knowledge and other aspects of their cultures, which contribute to human dignity, identity and intercultural dialogue;

(c) Mother-tongue mediated bilingual education is indispensable for effective learning for indigenous children and for the reduction of dropout rates;

(d) Any efforts to achieve Millennium Development Goal 2 are likely to fail if impartial and effective implementation of culturally sensitive educational programmes, curricula and actions addressing the needs of indigenous peoples are not undertaken;

(e) Indigenous children experience particular difficulties relating to access to education of quality and sociocultural relevance at all levels. Obstacles are numerous and complex and include, among others, distance to schools, differences in lifestyles, for example, nomadic and semi-nomadic communities, discrimination, violence, extreme poverty and exclusion;

(f) Education can be one of the most important tools for combating prejudice and discrimination. National curricula frequently ignore the cultures, treaties, histories and spiritual values of indigenous peoples and reinforce stereotypes;

(g) In many cases, current criteria to measure the achievement of Goal 2 regarding indigenous education are absent or are based on insufficient indicators

which do not reflect indigenous educational specificities and are culturally inappropriate and insensitive.

Recommendations to Member States

48. States should:
   
   (a) Endorse intercultural education as national policy priority to ensure equal access for indigenous children to quality and culturally appropriate primary education, as stipulated in the Convention on the Right of the Child;
   
   (b) Increase substantially State budgetary allocations in order to meet Millennium Development Goal 2 for indigenous children;
   
   (c) Increase funding for Goal 2 for indigenous children through bilateral and multilateral cooperation;
   
   (d) Review current national curricula and textbooks to erase culturally discriminatory materials and enhance knowledge of indigenous cultures;
   
   (e) Establish effective arrangements for the participation of indigenous parents and community members in decisions regarding the planning, delivery and evaluation of education services for their children, including in the designing and implementation of their own education at all levels, including developing appropriate teaching materials and methods;
   
   (f) Ensure an increase in the number of indigenous persons in the educational sectors, including in policy, administration, teaching indigenous culture, history and contemporary society, indigenous languages and production of educational materials;
   
   (g) Ensure that indigenous children have access to free primary quality education;
   
   (h) Eliminate national policies and practices that create further difficulties for indigenous children to enjoy their right to education, such as the request for birth certificates for the enrolment of children and the refusal to accept indigenous names and traditional dress in schools;
   
   (i) Develop bilingual and culturally appropriate primary education for indigenous children to reduce dropout rates. The mother tongue must be the first learning language and the national language the second language; curricula should reflect indigenous peoples’ holistic worldviews, knowledge systems, histories, spiritual values and physical activities, physical education and sports;
   
   (j) Recognize that isolation is a major obstacle that prevents indigenous peoples from fully enjoying their right to education. States should establish best practices, such as residential or boarding schools, where they have worked positively, and mobile and seasonal schools or the use of technologies, such as remote teaching and the Internet, to reach the most isolated and remote indigenous communities;
   
   (k) Support enrolment of indigenous persons in teacher-training programmes, colleges and relevant higher educational institutions;
   
   (l) Develop school curricula for indigenous peoples in cooperation with other Governments at the regional level in order to maximize the sustainable use of resources in this area;
(m) Develop monitoring guidelines and indicators for achieving Goal 2 regarding indigenous children and set benchmarks in that regard;

(n) In the context of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly the achievement of primary universal education, the Forum recommends that States, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations pay attention to intercultural bilingual education for indigenous peoples at the preschool, primary and tertiary levels.

Recommendations to the United Nations system

49. The Forum notes that the Fifth World Indigenous Education Conference will be held in New Zealand in November and December 2005, and urges UNESCO to seek to be actively involved in this conference, in particular in dissemination of information on UNESCO projects, programmes and activities relating to indigenous education and relevant to UNESCO responsibilities in pursuing Millennium Development Goal 2.

50. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UNESCO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other agencies should continue to support, in cooperation with indigenous peoples, intercultural and bilingual education programmes and to promote in particular the right to education, with emphasis on indigenous children; direct financial assistance to indigenous educational institutions should be considered.

51. UNESCO should provide technical assistance for the elaboration of national and regional programmes and projects on developing culturally relevant curricula and educational materials as well as pedagogy to improve the access to and quality of indigenous education in all countries with indigenous peoples.

52. UNESCO and UNICEF should continue to promote bilingual and cross-cultural education programmes for indigenous peoples and schools for girls and women’s literacy programmes in Latin America, and should encourage and expand these experiences in other regions.

53. UNICEF is invited to report to the Forum at its fifth session on the result of the “25 by 2005” initiative on maximizing indigenous girls’ education programmes.

54. The Special Rapporteur on human rights and fundamental freedom of indigenous people and the Special Rapporteur on the right to education are invited to work with the Forum and other United Nations agencies to promote and monitor the realization of indigenous peoples’ rights to quality and culturally appropriate education, including treaty rights to education.

55. United Nations agencies involved in data-collection processes regarding the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 2 should develop indicators relevant for indigenous peoples that capture their specificities including languages, culture, values and worldviews.

Recommendations to indigenous peoples

56. Indigenous communities and organizations are urged to:

(a) Establish effective arrangements for the participation of indigenous parents and community members in decision-making regarding the planning, delivery and evaluation of education services for their children;
(b) Actively participate in the monitoring of progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 2;

(c) Improve the coordination between indigenous and teachers’ organizations to assess curricula gaps and improve teacher-training modules on indigenous needs.

* * *

57. The Forum invites indigenous peoples, States and relevant organizations of the United Nations system to share experiences on education that represent best practices at the primary or community levels, based on indigenous cultures and traditions. The outcome of such discussions should be published and disseminated widely.

3. Ongoing priorities and themes: human rights, with special emphasis on an interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people

Introduction

58. The Forum urges the United Nations system and States to give special priority to implementing previous recommendations made by the Forum, and to take into account the cross-cutting nature of human rights issues.

59. In the formulation of its recommendations, the Forum takes particular note of and welcomes the statement made at the fourth session of the Forum by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, who underlined that the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals must be rooted in human rights. The Forum further takes note of the firm belief that the rapid conclusion of a strong declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples is imperative and that new and dynamic methods of work inside the United Nations should be explored by those working on indigenous issues.

60. It further welcomes and appreciates the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and his continuing attention to the violations of the human rights of indigenous peoples, as well as the dialogue held with the Rapporteur during the fourth session.

61. In its deliberations and in taking careful account of many voices heard at the fourth session, the Forum notes the importance of:

(a) The need for United Nations agencies and member States to implement and monitor Millennium Development Goals, in partnership with indigenous peoples and, consequently, within a human rights frame of reference;

(b) International recognition that the adoption of the draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is a top priority of the United Nations agencies, Member States and indigenous peoples.

Recommendations

62. The Forum recommends that Member States, United Nations bodies and mechanisms, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other parts of the United Nations system strengthen the machinery to address the urgent, gross and ongoing human rights violations, militarization of
indigenous lands and systemic violence committed by Member States against indigenous peoples.

63. The Forum calls upon all those Member States which have not yet done so to consider without delay ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and International Labour Organization Convention No. 169.

64. The Forum calls upon the United Nations Development Programme to develop an indigenous peoples-specific development index by country to take into account the social conditions and human rights situation of indigenous peoples.

65. The Forum recommends that UN-Habitat jointly, with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, through the United Nations Housing Rights Programme, organize an expert group meeting in 2006 to review the status of the realization process of indigenous peoples’ housing rights globally, and identify and document best practices and report on the outcome and recommendations of the expert group meeting at the sixth session of the Forum.

66. The Forum recommends that all Member States, with the assistance of United Nations agencies, as necessary, develop capacity-building programmes, including curricula that have a strong human rights focus, including collective rights of indigenous peoples, across the spectrum of national educational institutions.

67. The Forum recommends that Member States investigate the alarming rate of incarceration of indigenous women and communicate their findings to the Permanent Forum.

68. The Forum recommends that Member States review their constitutions with respect to the recognition of the existence and rights of indigenous peoples, with the effective participation of indigenous peoples.

69. The Forum recommends that Member States, the intergovernmental system, international financial institutions and the private sector respect and adhere to the principle of free, prior and informed consent in all matters affecting indigenous peoples.

70. The Forum recommends that United Nations country offices make the effort to disseminate their activities in publications in indigenous languages.

71. The Forum invites the Commission on Human Rights to recommend that the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and their families incorporate in her report the situation of indigenous migrants, especially indigenous women and children.

72. The Forum invites the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to present an evaluation of the implementation of the Durban Plan of Action at the sixth session of the Forum (2007) pertaining to indigenous peoples, especially indigenous women.

73. The Forum recommends that States pay special attention to the situation of uncontacted indigenous peoples, peoples in voluntary isolation, and peoples in isolated and remote localities and displaced peoples from indigenous communities. The Forum recommends that the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people pay special attention in his annual reports to the situation of these peoples. The Forum also considers that the situation of these peoples should be the subject of a special international meeting during the Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People.
74. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Commission on Human Rights adopt creative methods of work, with particular regard for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, including the appointment of an indigenous Co-Chair of the working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214.

75. The Forum recommends that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Secretariat establish a policy on indigenous peoples, in consultation with indigenous peoples.

76. The Forum recommends that courts and judicial bodies take urgent steps to ensure the protection of indigenous peoples from threats of the use of physical violence by Governments or paramilitary groups controlled by Governments and non-State actors.

77. The Forum recommends that States include independent indigenous experts in national human rights commissions.

78. In order to protect the human rights of indigenous peoples, the Forum recommends that States create indigenous ombudsmen offices, especially for indigenous women, ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous women.

4. Ongoing priorities and themes: data collection and the disaggregation of data on indigenous peoples

79. The Forum recognizes that segregated data provide a key tool for the planning and execution of programmes and projects and the monitoring and evaluation of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for indigenous peoples.

80. Recalling the international expert Workshop on Data Collection and Disaggregation for Indigenous Peoples (see E/C.19/2004/2, for the report thereon), the Forum welcomes the collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division in reviewing national practices in data collection and dissemination in the areas of ethnicity, language and religion and looks forward to the Demographic Yearbook special topic which will include data and analysis relevant to indigenous peoples. The Forum is also pleased to note that data on national and/or ethnic groups are being made available online by the Statistics Division at the following website:


In light of this work, as well as the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme, the Forum supports the Statistics Division in:

(a) Continuing its work in reviewing national practices in data collection and dissemination on issues relevant to indigenous peoples;

(b) Considering the extent to which the revision of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses can further address national and international data needs by facilitating the collection of data on indigenous peoples;

(c) Continuing to follow the recommendations of the international expert Workshop on Data Collection and Disaggregation for Indigenous Peoples;

(d) Strengthening user-producer consultation in data collection and dissemination efforts.
81. The Forum recommends that the United Nations Statistics Division mainstream statistical issues pertaining to indigenous peoples in the development of handbooks and guidelines. The Forum also recommends that the Statistics Division continue to coordinate with the regional commissions and consider that part of their work that is relevant to indigenous people and census operations in the revision of the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*.

82. The Forum welcomes the contributions of the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank to data-collection and disaggregation projects and recommends that these processes develop indicators that are culturally sensitive to indigenous peoples.

83. We encourage the Economic and Social Council in respect of the following recommendation: the Council should request that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean continue and strengthen its efforts regarding the production, elaboration and use of relevant information from population census, household surveys and other adequate sources, in strong interaction with indigenous peoples, aiming at improving the socio-economic conditions and active participation of indigenous peoples in the development process throughout the Latin American region. In addition, the Forum recommends that in all relevant data-collection processes, Member States and United Nations organizations take the steps described in paragraphs 84-88 below.

84. Include questions on indigenous identity with full respect for the principle of self-identification. It is important to develop multiple criteria by which to accurately capture identity and socio-economic conditions with the active and meaningful participation of local indigenous peoples.

85. Assure and support the full participation of indigenous peoples as equal partners in all stages of data collection, including planning, implementation, analysis and dissemination, access and return, with the appropriate resourcing and capacity-building for achieving this objective. Data collection must respond to the priorities and aims of the indigenous communities themselves.

86. Follow the principle of free, prior and informed consent at all levels and take into account both the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics as established by the Statistical Commission and provisions on human rights and fundamental freedoms and data protection regulations and privacy guarantees including respect for confidentiality. For indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation, data-collection exercises should not be used as a pretext for establishing forced contact.

87. Promote and support the utilization of local indigenous languages and, where no written language exists, employ local indigenous people (as translators/interpreters as well as advisers) to assist in the collection process.

88. Take into account the full diversity and demographic profile of indigenous communities, including gender, children, youth and aged persons, people with disabilities, nomadic, semi-nomadic and migrating peoples, peoples in transition, displaced persons, indigenous peoples in urban areas, and particularly vulnerable groups of indigenous peoples.

89. The Forum recommends that States and United Nations organizations involve indigenous peoples’ representatives in designing, implementing and monitoring data
collection and disaggregation by ensuring their membership in the mechanism of national commissions on population censuses and related institutional arrangements.

90. Taking into account that some States are in the process of moving towards democracy and the fact that they are planning future elections, the Forum recommends that these States organize, in collaboration with United Nations agencies, a census of indigenous populations with a view to establishing a basis for monitoring and ensuring full and effective indigenous participation in these elections and, when possible, for this action to take place on a regional basis.

**Capacity-building**

91. The Forum recommends that technical training sessions for indigenous peoples should be promoted and supported and that their employment by data-collection institutions at the national and international levels should be facilitated.

92. Indigenous professionals, technicians and indigenous leaders should build their capacity in respect of data-collection processes and non-indigenous professionals and technicians should be informed of the culture and practices of indigenous peoples.

5. **Ongoing priorities and themes: follow-up to previous special themes:**


(a) **Indigenous children and youth**

93. The Forum on Indigenous Issues is deeply concerned that particular problems and discrimination are faced by indigenous children and youth, including in the areas of education, health, culture, extreme poverty, mortality, sexual exploitation, militarization, displacement, incarceration, labour and others.

94. Recognizing and appreciating the progress made, but at the same time acknowledging that further work needs to be done, it is urged that recommendations by the Forum at its past sessions that are of particular relevance to children and youth be implemented immediately.

95. The Forum makes the recommendations set out below.

**United Nations agencies**


97. United Nations agencies should provide incentives and funding opportunities for indigenous youth organizations to initiate non-formal education activities targeting girls and women. Where initiatives already exist, they should develop replication strategies and scale up existing initiatives.

98. The Millennium Campaign should raise awareness about the Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples, providing space for indigenous youth to express their views and share experiences related to Millennium Development Goals issues, enable young indigenous people to interact with their national leaders, and facilitate networking between youth groups to crystallise new projects. The
campaigns should include several elements including school-based outreach, national conferences, local workshops, media activities, including phone-in radio programmes and televised debates, essay and expression contests and service days.

99. The United Nations Children’s Fund should initiate country-specific situation analyses of indigenous youth and children through field offices in countries with indigenous communities and transmit such situation analyses to the Forum.

States

100. Youth employment poverty-reduction strategies of States and the intergovernmental system should especially focus on indigenous youth, women and men, who are among the most marginalized within the current economic system. Addressing the needs of indigenous youth will also help to achieve Millennium Development Goal 3 and address pressures and problems arising from mass rural-to-urban migration.

101. Governments should support training in sustainable consumption towards a sustainable lifestyle and follow up initiatives, including networks and small grants.

102. Special emphasis should be placed by States on the involvement of city and local government authorities in engaging and supporting young indigenous people to achieve the Millennium Development Goals at the local level. Priorities for local authorities should include the creation of local youth councils with the participation of indigenous youth in decision-making, the provision of meeting spaces for young people to gather and coordinate projects, develop youth leadership, support for youth artistic and cultural expression, promotion of sport for development and peace and access to information and communication technologies.

Indigenous peoples organizations

103. The Forum, recalling its recommendation at its second session\(^3\) regarding an art competition among indigenous children for a logo/visual identifier for the Forum, decides to renew for another year its call for the submission of artwork by indigenous children, and calls for as wide a dissemination of information on the competition as possible so that the artwork can be received in time for the Forum’s selection at the fifth session.

104. The Forum urges States and United Nations agencies to support the attendance and participation of indigenous youth at future sessions of the Permanent Forum.

105. The Forum urges the members of the advisory council for the Voluntary Fund for the Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People to allocate funds to indigenous youth-initiated projects and activities.

(b) Indigenous women

106. The Forum emphasizes the unique contributions made by indigenous women within their families, communities and nations and at the international level in terms of possessing and transmitting intergenerationally a wealth of traditional knowledge on the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable environment management.

107. At the same time, the Forum expresses concern that indigenous women continue to be one of the most marginalized groups in many countries, being victims of serious acts of discrimination and flagrant violations of their fundamental human rights. In addition, globalization presents new challenges and problems for indigenous women in many parts of the world.

108. The Forum recommends to the United Nations system and States to implement the recommendations on indigenous women made in the report on its third session in the development of programmes focused on the goals of the Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People4 guaranteeing the involvement of indigenous women.

109. The Forum is pleased to take note of the goals accomplished until now by the Task Force on Indigenous Women, reported to the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality at its annual session in February 2005.

110. The Forum recognizes that:

(a) Gender equality has a central role in development policy with a focus on poverty reduction, human rights and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular economic, social, sexual and reproductive health and rights, including good governance and democratic institutions, and to the creation of a world where people live free from fear and want, in dignity and peace;

(b) The elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary education requires an improvement in access, continuity, quality, and management of women’s education at all levels with cultural relevance.

Recommendations to Member States

Participation

111. Improve and increase indigenous women’s economic and social conditions through:

(a) Expansion of employment opportunities;

(b) Promotion of the professionalization of their traditional skills, arts and crafts;

(c) Access to resources, including microcredit, new technologies and agricultural input;

(d) Support the regional meetings of indigenous women and organize training on international, regional and national mechanisms.

112. Adopt measures that ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous women in implementation, follow-up work and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

113. Ensure that indigenous women’s expertise is reflected in all national and international development strategies and that indigenous women, in consultation with their communities and organizations, are part of the formulation and

---

4 See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 23 (E/2004/43-E/C.19/2004/23), paras. 3, 5, 13 (a) and (d), 14 (d), 31, 42 (c), 43 (a) and (b), 46, 63, 65, 87, 89 (a), (b), (g), (i) and (j).
decision-making processes of sustainable development initiatives. Efforts towards gender equality should be integrated as part of States’ investments in all of the Millennium Development Goals.

**Capacity-building**

114. Include relevant information on the rights of indigenous peoples, in particular indigenous women by engaging indigenous organizations in the reporting process to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other relevant human rights bodies, encouraging indigenous women through their organizations to become involved in the reporting process to the Committee.

115. Establish a fund for indigenous women to support capacity-building and their participation in meetings at the international, regional and national levels.

116. Foster the training of indigenous women in order to gain leadership skills to become community advocates and defenders for indigenous women’s rights to achieve gender equity.

117. Combat, within an appropriate legal framework, and link with Millennium Development Goals, violence against women, including forced prostitution and trafficking of women and girls as well as domestic violence.

**Access**

118. Reinforce the investments in population and reproductive health which is crucial for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals — to reduce poverty, achieve universal primary education, improve maternal and child health, curb the spread of HIV/AIDS, promote gender equality, ensure sustainable development, and establish a strong partnership for development.

**Recommendations to the United Nations system**

119. The Permanent Forum welcomes the initiative of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) regional office in Mexico with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the creation of a regional inter-agency group on indigenous women, and recommends continuing support for indigenous women’s issues and replication of the experience in other regions of the world.

120. The Forum recommends that UNIFEM, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization and UNDP support the first-world fair of indigenous women art makers, to be held in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico, in April 2006, promoted by indigenous peoples from the north of Mexico.

121. Request the Commission on Human Rights to support the request that the Special Rapporteur on violence against women conduct a workshop/study on violence against indigenous women in coordination with the Permanent Forum and to report on progress at the sixth session of the Permanent Forum.
6. Future work of the Forum

Trust Fund in support of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

122. The Forum expresses its appreciation to all those who contributed to the Trust Fund for the support of the Forum and calls upon Governments, intergovernmental organizations, foundations and non-governmental organizations to give generously to the Fund.

123. The Forum recommends that its Bureau serve as the advisory group to the Voluntary Fund for the Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People and calls upon Governments, intergovernmental organizations, foundations and non-governmental organizations to give generously to the Fund.

Contributions and participation of representatives of intergovernmental organizations and Governments

124. The Forum invites the agencies and Governments submitting contributions also to indicate in future the challenges that they face in the implementation of the Forum’s recommendations.

125. The Forum congratulates the United Nations Development Programme for convening a productive session of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues in September 2004, welcomes the expanding membership of the Inter-Agency Support Group and encourages other intergovernmental entities to join the Group, and encourages the Group to continue the practice of the participation of members of the Permanent Forum.

International and regional institutions

126. The Forum notes with satisfaction the participation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as well as the participation of the Economic Commission for Africa and of the Inter-American Development Bank in inter-agency mechanisms on indigenous issues.

127. The Forum invites other international and regional institutions also to engage in cooperation with the Forum, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNAIDS, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Arctic Council, the Asian Development Bank, the African Union, the Organization of American States, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

128. The Forum reiterates the recommendations contained in its report on its second session and strongly advises positive consideration to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and UNAIDS joining the Inter-Agency Support Group.

---

North America, the Arctic, the Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America

129. The Forum decides to devote sufficient time during its fifth session to special events for the purpose of identifying the issues, challenges and positive measures of cooperation required to improve the situation of indigenous peoples in the above-mentioned regions and invites the United Nations system, as well as relevant Governments, regional intergovernmental institutions and organizations, and indigenous peoples organizations to contribute to these special events.

Other regional initiatives

130. The Forum supports the initiative of the Asia Indigenous Peoples’ Caucus to undertake research and hold a regional conference on the question of indigenousness in Asia in order to bring about better dialogue and understanding on the issue.

131. The Forum recommends that UNDP establish regional initiatives on indigenous peoples and strengthen further its HURIST programme in all regions of the world that include all the countries of each region with an indigenous regional coordinator as is the case in Asia.

Implementation and monitoring at the country level

132. The Forum recommends the designation of focal points in the United Nations country teams or the country offices of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, with a mandate to deal with indigenous issues, inter alia, to follow-up on the implementation of recommendations of the Forum, and the objectives of the Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People.

Analysis of recommendations of the first three sessions

133. In order to facilitate its future work, the Forum decides to appoint Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the Forum, and William Littlechild, member of the Forum, as Special Rapporteurs, to prepare, without financial implications, an analytical paper with a concise thematic compilation of the recommendations of the first three sessions of the Forum, and their status of implementation at the national, regional and international levels, and to submit it to the Permanent Forum at its fifth session, in 2006.

Methodological points

134. The Forum recommends that in order to raise further awareness of indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals, the Economic and Social Council High-level Segment to be held from 29 June to 1 July 2005, and the General Assembly Summit to be held in September 2005 allow presentations of recommendations of the Forum at its fourth session on the Millennium Development Goals by the Chairperson of the Forum.

135. The Forum decides to appoint Yuri Boychenko and Parshuram Tamang, members of the Forum, as Special Rapporteurs, to prepare, without financial implications, a working paper on current practices and methods of work to be submitted at the fifth session of the Permanent Forum.
136. With a view to strengthening collaboration during the intersessional period, and further developing expert recommendations to member organizations of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, the Forum decides to increase visits by its members to these entities to carry out an in-depth analysis of the programmes, activities and operations at the international, regional and national levels.

137. The Forum takes note of the report of the International Workshop on Methodologies regarding Free, Prior and Informed Consent and Indigenous Peoples, and recommends that the United Nations system and intergovernmental processes and bodies continue to promote the political development and implementation of free, prior and informed consent, taking into account the development perspectives, respect for human rights and juridical pluralism of indigenous peoples.

138. With a view to establishing a partnership with the United Nations Forum on Forests to work in the area of traditional forest-related knowledge and social and cultural aspects of forests pertaining to indigenous peoples, the Forum appoints Pavel Sulyandziga, member of the Forum, as Special Rapporteur to work with the United Nations Forum on Forests, without financial implications, and to report on that subject to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its fifth session.

139. The Forum encourages organizers of pre-sessional regional meetings of indigenous peoples to develop suggestions and recommendations for the Forum to consider and encourages its members to participate in such meetings.

**Traditional knowledge**

140. The Forum recommends that the Inter-Agency Support Group convene a technical workshop on indigenous traditional knowledge, in collaboration with United Nations agencies dealing with this issue, with the participation of indigenous experts, with a view to promoting a collaborative, complementary and holistic approach to traditional knowledge in order to enhance better understanding of indigenous concerns and their possible solution and requests the workshop to submit its report to the Forum at its fifth session.

141. The Forum invites the World Health Organization, as lead agency on Millennium Development Goals 4, 5, and 6 with UNDP, the World Intellectual Property Organization and other relevant agencies and States, to partner with the Forum to organize, host and report to the Forum at its next session on methods, processes and best practices of integrating indigenous traditional knowledge, medicine, healing and other health practices in mainstream health-care systems and sensitizing health personnel concerning the protection of indigenous knowledge systems.

**Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People**

142. In order to mark the expected adoption of the plan of action for the Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, the Permanent Forum decides to organize a special day of discussion on a Programme of Action during its fifth session, in 2006, and invites the Coordinator of the Decade and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to initiate the awareness-raising campaign of the Second International Decade.
143. The Forum recommends that the Coordinator of the Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People fully consult with the Forum regarding the preparation of the draft plan of action for the Second Decade.

144. The Forum encourages national committees for the Decade, where those exist, to invite members of the Forum to participate in the activities of these committees.
Chapter II

Introduction

By its decision 2004/288, the Economic and Social Council decided that the fourth session of the Forum would be held at United Nations Headquarters from 16 to 27 May 2005.
Chapter III

Special theme: “Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples”

A. Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

1. The Forum considered agenda item 3 (a) at its 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 15th and 16th meetings, on 16, 17, 18 and 27 May 2005.

2. At the 2nd meeting, on 16 May, presentations were made by Louise Arbour, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mark Malloch-Brown, UNDP Administrator and Chair of the United Nations Development Group, and Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General and Director of the Millennium Project.

3. Also at the same meeting, the Forum engaged in an interactive dialogue, and interventions were made by the following members of the Forum: Parshuram Tamang, Wilton Littlechild, Aqqaluk Lynge, Nina Pacari Vega, Pavel Sulyandziga, Hassan Id Balkassm, William Langeveldt, Ida Nicolaisen, Michael Dodson, Eduardo Aguilar de Almeida and Otilia Lux de Coti.

4. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB).

5. At its 3rd meeting, on 17 May, the Forum continued its discussion on the item and an interactive dialogue was conducted among the following agencies: the World Bank, ILO, UNDP, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and UNESCO, and the following members of the Forum: Parshuram Tamang, Wilton Littlechild, Yuri Boychenko, Qin Xiaomei, Nina Pacari Vega, Ida Nicolaisen, Liliane Muzangi Mbela, Hassan Id Balkassm, Merike Kokajev, Pavel Sulyandziga, William Langenveldt, Aqqaluk Lynge, and Otilia Lux de Coti.

6. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the following representatives of indigenous people’s organizations and Member States: Canada, Greece, the Russian Federation, Australia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Norway, Finland, Brazil, Spain, The Rapanui Parliament and Council of Chief, Tavini Hui Raatira — No Te Ao Maohi French Polynesia, Bougainville Autonomous Government, The Pacific Concerns Resource Center, The Indigenous World Association, The Koani Foundation, World Council of Churches, Pacific, Nauru Island Association, Turanga, Tuvanauta Komintie, Comisión Jurídica para el Autodesarrollo de los Pueblos Originarios Andinos (CAPAJ), Land is Life, International Indigenous Women’s Forum, Asia Caucus, Native Women’s Association of Canada, Caribbean and Antilles Indigenous Peoples Caucus and Diaspora, Asociación de la Juventud Indígena de Argentina, Rongmei Women Organization, Khmers Kampuchea-Krom

7. At its 5th meeting, on 18 May, the Forum continued its consideration of agenda item 3 (a) and statements were made by representatives of the following organizations, bodies and specialized agencies, as well as representatives of the following: IFAD, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, Venezuela, the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests, Nepal Tamang Ghedung, Indonesia, the Chairman of the United Nations Forum on Forests, Denmark, Arctic Caucus, Viet Nam, Maya Vision, American Indian Law Alliance, Mexico, Pacific Caucus, Caucus de Mujeres Indígenas, ONGTchichitt, ONG GASF, ONG Tounfa, I WGIA, Indigenous Caucus, Asian Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Network — Na Koa Ikaika Kalahui-Hawaii, Indian Treaty Council, The Confederacy of Treaty of Six First Nations and Frente por la Democracia y el Desarrollo, Coalición Campesina Indígena del Istmo, South Asia Indigenous Women Forum, Tunaga Nation, Indigenous Environment Network, Indigenous Peoples Council on Biocolonialism, Consejo de Pueblos Nahuas del Alto Balsas Guerrero, A.C., Comité Intertribal de Memoria y Ciencia Indígena de Brasil, Fundación Indoamerica (Mexico), CAPAJ (Peru), Consultoria de los Pueblos Indígenas en el Norte de Mexico, CITI, and Land is Life.

8. At the same meeting, the Chairperson made a statement and the following members of the Forum also made statements: Parshuram Tamang, Eduardo Aguiar de Almeida, Aqqaluk Lynge, Wilton Littlechild, and Nina Pacari Vega.

B. **Goal 2 of the Millennium Development Goals: Achieve universal primary education**

9. At its 6th, 7th, 8th, 15th and 16th meetings, on 19, 20 and 27 May, the Forum considered item 3 (b), “Achieve universal primary education”, to be addressed under the thematic approaches of language, cultural perspective and traditional knowledge.

10. At its 6th meeting, on 19 May, the Forum considered item 3 (b) and heard statements by the following representatives of specialized agencies of the Inter-Agency Support Group: UNICEF, the World Bank, UNESCO, UNHCHR and ILO.

11. At the same meeting, the following members of the Forum also made statements: Eduardo Aguiar de Almeida, Hassan Id Balkassm, William Langeveldt, Nina Pacari Vega, Yuri Boychenko, Pavel Sulyandziga, Parshuram Tamang, Wilton Littlechild, and Merike Kokajev.

12. Also at the same meeting, the Forum heard statements by the following observers: Canada, Fundo Indígeno, Parlamento Indígena de América, The Koani Foundation, Waikiki Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Na Koa Ikaika o Ka Lahui Hawaii, Seventh Generation Fund, International Institute for the Study and Preservation of Aboriginal Peoples, Threatened (TIPs), India Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, Tugara Nation, Pacific Caucus, Asia Caucus, and Tlahtolokan Nahuacalli.

14. At the 8th meeting, on 20 May, on Millennium Development Goal 2: item 3 (b), Achieve universal primary education, statements and comments were made by representatives of the following organizations, specialized agencies and Member States: Joham — India, Indian Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (India), Indonesia, Yamassee Native Americans She-Clan, Guyana, Newa Day Darbo, Mexico, Asociación Nacional Indígena Salvadoreña (ANIS), World Bank, Organización Indígena Aymara “Taypi Ceqe”, United Association of Khmer Kampuchea Krom Buddhist Monks, Consejo Indio de Sud America, Indigenous Youth Caucus, Movement for Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), North American Caucus, International Indian Treaty Council, Indigenous Environmental Network, World Council of Churches, FAIRA Conservation International, Habitat Pro Association, Pueblo Kechua de Tauria (Peru), Indigenous organisations from Chile, Corporación de Mujeres Mapuche “Aukinko Zomo”, and the Caucus of African Indigenous People.

Action taken by the Forum

15. At its 16th meeting, on 27 May, the Forum adopted its recommendations under item 3 of its agenda (see chap. I, sect. B).
Chapter IV

Ongoing priorities and themes

A. Human rights

1. The Forum considered agenda item 4 (a) at its 9th, 10th, 11th, 15th and 16th meetings, on 23, 24 and 27 May 2005.

2. At the 9th meeting, a statement was made by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people.


4. Statements were made by the Chairperson of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, and by the representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

5. Statements were also made by the following members of the Permanent Forum: Hassan Id Balkasm, Wilton Littlechild, Parsharam Tamang, Otilia Lux de Coti, Nina Pacari Vega, and Aqqaluk Lynge.

B. Data collection and the disaggregation of data on indigenous peoples


6. The Forum considered items 4 (b) and (c) at its 10th, 11th, 15th and 16th meetings, on 23, 24 and 27 May.
7. At the 10th meeting, on 23 May, statements were made by representatives of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.


9. Also at the same meeting, statements were also made by the following members of the Permanent Forum: Parsharam Tamang, Ida Nicolaisen, Aqqaluk Lynge, Wilton Littlechild, Nina Pacari Vega, and Otilia Lux de Coti.

10. At its 11th meeting, on 24 May, statements were made by representatives of the following organizations and countries: Canada, Native Women’s Association of Canada, ENLACE, Rights and Democracy, Australia, South Asia Indigenous Women’s Forum, Bangladesh, Yaaku Peoples Association, Nepal, Consejo de Todas las Tierras, Viet Nam, Colombia, Indonesia, Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities, Proyecto de la Memoria Histórica, Armenian Sisters, Indigenous Peoples Caucus of the Greater Caribbean, Consejo Indio de Sud America, CISA/Asociación Nacional Indígena Salvadoreña ANIS, Asociación para la Nutrición, El Desarrollo, Educación y Salud Andes Perú, Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People and the National Youth Council of the Ogoni People, Comisión Jurídica para el Autodesarrollo de los Pueblos Originarios Andinos CAPAJ, Taypi Ceqe, Khmers Kampuchea Krom Federation, Latin American Caucus, Ka Lahui Hawai’i Caucus, Sami Council, Asociación de Mujeres Waorani de la Amazonia Ecuatoriana, Ainu Association of Hokkaido, Shimin Gaikou Centre, Southern Chiefs Organisation, Partnership for Indigenous Peoples Environment, Caucus Inmigración desplasamientos de los pueblos indígenas/Coordinadora Nacional de Desplasados y Comunidades Indígenas en Reconstrucción del Perú, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, Inuit Circumpolar Youth Council, Peace Campaign Group, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, United Confederation of Toina People, Defensoría de los Pueblos Indígenos en America, Movimiento Indígeno Pachacute, Movimiento Indígeno del Perú.

Action taken by the Forum

11. At its 16th meeting, on 27 May, the Forum, adopted the draft recommendations submitted under agenda items 4 (a), (b), and (c) (see chap. I, sect. B).
Chapter V

Future work of the Forum

1. The Forum considered item 5 at its 8th, 12th and 13th meetings on 20, 25 and 27 May 2005.

2. At the 8th meeting, on 20 May, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made a presentation on the Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People, which was followed by an interactive dialogue between the Under-Secretary-General and the following members of the Forum: Otilia Lux de Coti, Aqqaluk Lynge, Nina Pasari Vega, William Langeveldt, Pavel Sulyandziga, Hassan Id Balkassm, Michael Dodson, Ida Nicolaisen, Wilton Littlechild, and Yuri Boychenko.


4. A member of the Forum, Wilton Littlechild, also made a statement.

5. At the 13th meeting, on 25 May, a statement was made by the Chairman of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations.

6. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the following organizations and countries: Finland, International Alliance of Indigenous Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forest, Chile, Aldet Centre-Saint Lucia, Guatemala, Adat Alifuru, Meijis of Crimean Tatar People, Akha Heritage Foundation, Sauteau First Nations, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, Comisión Jurídica para el Auto Desarrollo de los Pueblos Originarios Andinos, Land is Life, American Indian Law Alliance, Ethnic Minority and Indigenous Rights Organization of Africa, Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, Partnership for Indigenous

7. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Indonesia made a statement.

**Action taken by the Forum**

8. At its 16th meeting, on 27 May, the Forum recommended two draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I., sect A, draft decisions I and II) and adopted the draft recommendations submitted under agenda item 5 (see chap. I, sect. B).
Chapter VI
Draft agenda for the fifth session of the Forum


2. The representative from the World Bank also made a statement.

3. The following members of the Forum also made statements: Aqqaluk Lynge, Wilton Littlechild, Ida Nicolaisen, Merike Kokajev, Qin Xiaomei, Hassan Id Balkassm and Nina Pacari Vega.

Action taken by the Forum

4. At its 16th meeting, on 27 May, the Forum recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council a draft decision containing the provisional agenda for its fifth session (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision III).
Chapter VII
Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fourth session

1. At the 16th meeting, on 27 May, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Forum on its fourth session (E/C.19/2005/L.13).

2. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted its report on its fourth session.
Chapter VIII

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Forum held its fourth session at United Nations Headquarters from 16 to 27 May 2005. It held 16 formal meetings to consider items on the agenda and a number of informal meetings for consultations among members of the Forum.

2. At the 1st meeting, on 16 May, the session was opened by the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. During the inauguration ceremony, the Ceremonial Leader and Holy Man from the SHIPAVLOVI HOPI Community in Second Mesa, Arizona, United States of America, offered words of blessing to the Forum.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Deputy Secretary-General, the Acting President of the General Assembly, the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, and the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women.

4. At the same meeting, a statement was made by Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the Forum.

B. Attendance

5. Members of the Forum and representatives of Governments, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental organizations, as well as of non-governmental organizations and indigenous organizations, attended the session. The list of participants is contained in annex I.

C. Election of officers

6. At its 1st meeting, on 16 May, the Forum elected the following members of the Bureau by acclamation:

Chairperson:
Victoria Tauli-Corpuz

Vice-Chairpersons:
Hassan Id Balkassm
Otilia Lux de Coti
Ida Nicolaisen
Pavel Sulyandziga

Rapporteur:
Michael Dodson

D. Agenda

7. At its 1st meeting, on 16 May, the Forum adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/C.19/2005/1.
E. Documentation

8. The documents before the Forum at its fourth session are listed in annex II to the present report.
Annex I

List of participants

Members

Eduardo Aguiar de Almeida (Brazil), Hassan Id Balkassm (Morocco), Yuri Boychenko (Russian Federation), Michael Dodson (Australia), Merike Kokajev (Estonia), William Langenveldt (South Africa), Wilton Littechild (Canada), Otilia Lux de Coti (Guatemala), Aqqaluk Lynge (Greenland), Liliane Muzangi Mbela (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Ida Nicolaisen (Denmark), Nina Pacari Vega (El Salvador), Qin Xiaomei (China), Pavel Sulyandziga (Russian Federation), Parshuram Tamang (Nepal), Victoria Tauli-Corpuz (Philippines)

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belize, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, El Salvador, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

Non-member States represented by observers

Holy See

United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations


Indigenous peoples organizations

(organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council appear in bold type)

Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council


Academic institutions

Columbia University, Harvard University –Graduate School of Education, John Jay College of Criminal Justice – Puerto Rican & Latin American Studies Department, Oberlin College, Rutgers University, Sami University College –Samisk Hogskole, University of Arizona –Rogers College of Law, University of Delaware, University of Deusto (Spain) - Instituto de Derechos Humanos Pedro Arrupe, University of Durham, University of London –Institute for the Study of the Americas, University of Lund –Department of Sociology, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico –Programa Universitario Mexico Nacion Multicultural, University of Michigan –Department of Anthropology, University of New Mexico –Native American Studies, University of Toronto, University of Tromso –Faculty of Law/Division of Social Anthropology, University of Vermont, University of Washington –Law School/Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program.

Others

Centre de Documentation de Recherche et d’Information des Peuples Autochtones (doCip), Church World Service UN Office, Cultural Survival, Land is Life, Loretto Community, Peace Campaign Group, The Koani Foundation, Tribal Link Foundation.
### Annex II

**List of documents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E/C.19/2005/1</td>
<td>Provisional agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/C.19/2005/4 and Add.1-14</td>
<td>Information received from the United Nations system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/C.19/2005/5 and Add.1-3</td>
<td>Information received from Governments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/C.19/2005/6</td>
<td>Information received from NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/C.19/2005/7</td>
<td>Expert paper on indigenous children’s education and indigenous languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/C.19/2005/8</td>
<td>Note by the Secretariat on mandated areas and ongoing priorities and themes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/C.19/2005/L.1</td>
<td>Note by the Secretariat on the proposed organization of work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/C.19/2005/L.2, 3 and 5-10</td>
<td>Draft recommendations submitted by the Rapporteur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/C.19/2005/L.4</td>
<td>Draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/C.19/2005/L.11 and 12</td>
<td>Draft decisions submitted by the Rapporteur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/C.19/2005/L.13</td>
<td>Draft report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/C.19/2005/CRP.1-4</td>
<td>Background papers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*0537761*