

SUMMARY NOTES ON THE 22nd SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES (UNPFII)

17th to 28th of April 2023, New York City

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Information and Methodology: *This summary is based on the notes taken during the conference and the statements collected by Docip services, [available here](#). The discussions summarized in this document relate to all sessions open to the public. (Closed meetings, whose content is not covered in this document, were held on Thursday the 20th in the afternoon, on the morning of Wednesday the 26th, as well as in the morning of Friday the 28th).*

1. Executive Summary:

The central theme guiding discussions during the 22nd Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was “*Indigenous Peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach*”. Unlike the 21st session, this UNPFII was held fully in person with 3 hour session blocks, as opposed to the 2 hour hybrid format used previously. The first week was dedicated to plenary sessions and interactive dialogues, designed to grant participants with as much input as possible. The second week of the forum held regional dialogues, allowing Permanent Forum Members to share specialized expertise. At its last session on 28.04, the Permanent Forum formally approved a list of 31 recommendations to states, the UN General Assembly (UNGA), UN agencies, to the Human Rights Council (HRC) and to the Office of High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR). Central to recommendations was, among others, formal recognition of Indigenous Peoples cosmivision centred around the interconnectedness of human, planetary and territorial health, and the necessity to integrate Indigenous Peoples within these approaches as well as into national narratives, policy-making and international mechanisms.

2. Details

Monday, 17.04

- ***Opening of the Session, election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.***

The opening of the 22nd Session of the UNPFII took place in General Assembly hall. **Mr, Tadohado Sid Hill, Chief of the Onondaga Nation** gave a traditional opening address in which he exhorted the forum to be mindful of and grateful for all aspects of our natural environment.

- **Ms. Tove Søvndahl Gant and Ms. Naw Ei Ei Min, Experts of the Permanent Forum** nominated **Mr. Darío José Mejía Montalvo as the Chair for the 22nd session of the UNPFII.** (elected by acclamation)
- **Permanent Forum Members Mr. Vital Bambanze and Ms. Aluki Kotierk,** nominated **Mr. Suleiman Mamutov, Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Ms. Hannah McGlade, Ms. Hanie Moghani and Mr. Geoffrey Roth as Vice-Chairs of the Permanent Forum.** (elected by acclamation)
- Permanent Forum Members nominated **Ms. Tove Søvndahl Gant** to serve as Rapporteur. (elected by acclamation).
- The proposed Agenda and Program of Work ([E/C.19/2023/L.1](#)) of the 22nd Session of the UNPFII was formally approved.

UN Secretary General, Mr. Antonio Guterres reaffirmed the UN's commitment and support to Indigenous Peoples, applauding their food systems whose resilience strengthens and preserves local biodiversity, further noting the disproportionate impact of climate change on Indigenous Peoples and their territories. **President of UNGA Mr. Csaba Kőrös** spoke about the need to learn from Indigenous Peoples' intrinsic linking of human and planetary health, calling upon participants to urgently learn from their perspectives. **President of the Republic of Colombia, Mr. Gustavo Petro** proposed that the only effective solution to halting the negative impacts of climate change was the immediate cessation of oil and gas extraction. Mr. Petro exhorted states and Indigenous Peoples to work hand in hand in advancing the protection and revitalization of the Amazon rainforest, to facilitate these kinds of partnerships, Mr. Petro proposed the creation of a billion-dollar global fund which could dispense grants to individuals/organizations active at all activity levels. **President of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Ms. Lacherava Stoeva** noted the relevance of the Forum's theme to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) in the 2030 agenda. **Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs Mr. Lin Junhua** highlighted the marginalization from healthcare and basic services accesses, suffered by Indigenous Peoples and the compounding effects climate change and discrimination have on their territories and ecosystems. **Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior and citizen of the Pueblo of Laguna in the state of New Mexico, Ms. Deb Haaland** presented various steps the current US administration had taken to uplift Indigenous Peoples voices, exhorting states to address severe human rights abuses, violence, and enduring gender disparities witnessed globally. ***The 22nd Session of the Permanent Forum was formally opened.***

- **Item 5(g) Thematic Dialogues**
 - **A. International Decade of Indigenous Languages:**
 - **B. CEDAW General Recommendation No. 39 on the rights of Indigenous Women and Girls.**

Item 5(g) was opened, both themes were discussed concurrently. **Ms. Sonia Guajajara, Minister of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil** delivered an opening address, as well as being the first Indigenous Peoples Minister in the country, her contribution also marked the first time an Indigenous Woman spoke on behalf of Brazil. Ms. Guajajara highlighted the relevance of the Permanent Forum and this session's theme, calling upon member states to never again allow a world without Indigenous Peoples participation and consultation. **Ms. Gladys Acosta Vargas, Former Chair of the Committee**

on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (hereafter CEDAW) presented [CEDAW General Recommendation No. 39 on the rights of Indigenous Women and Girls](#) (hereafter CEDAW Gen. Rec. 39).

States and International Mechanisms provided numerous contributions presenting projects aimed at revitalizing Indigenous Languages and at the empowerment of Indigenous Women and Girls. Of note was **Mexico's** Indigenous Language universities where 145 different initiatives had already been implemented within the country's poorest Indigenous communities. The **International Labor Organization (ILO)** presented a comparative study whereby Indigenous Women were found to have far lower employment rates when compared to Indigenous Men, as well as a much higher likelihood of working within informal sectors.

Indigenous Peoples organizations made limited contributions, **Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)** noted the threat of extinction suffered by Indigenous Languages in Asia, calling upon states to implement country-specific measures. **National Organization of Indigenous Andean and Amazonian Women (ONAMIAP)** highlighted the Peruvian states' use of "lawfare" to criminalize and oppress Indigenous voices of dissent, calling upon the Permanent Forum to ensure states comply with existing treaties and conventions. *Item 5(g) was subsequently closed.*

On (a.) the Permanent Forum recommended increasing state financial resources accessible for Indigenous-led language revitalization initiatives, as well as asking UNESCO to perform a study on Indigenous media. On (b.) the Permanent Forum recommended the translation of CEDAW Gen. Rec. 39 into Indigenous Languages, for UN-Women to conduct a study on the impact of colonization on the rights of Indigenous Women and Girls, for the UN Commission on the Status of Women to include Indigenous Women and Girls into their agenda. The Permanent Forum further decided to include discussions around CEDAW Gen. Rec. 39 into annual discussions.

- **Item 5(f) Dialogue on Indigenous Platforms established within United Nations entities**

This session enabled participants to hear about progress made by different formal and non-formal Indigenous bodies present within UN entities. It is to be noted that advancements were made by the **International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity** whose work within the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework progressively saw Indigenous Peoples take up active roles within implementation and negotiation phases of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the opening of an executive board position for Indigenous Peoples within the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**. The **UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** further invited participants to attend the 2023 edition of the UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum (UNGIYF) which was held in Rome in October 2023, further calling for the creation of a study on the impact of ultra-processed foods on Indigenous Youth.

Indigenous Peoples Organizations made limited contributions, **International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)** notably called for a rewriting of article 8(j) of the CBD due to lack of reference to UNDRIP, as well as exhorted participants to cease usage of merged terms "*Indigenous Peoples and local communities*". The **Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)** further sought to highlight difficulties faced by Russian Indigenous Peoples in seeking to participate in International Forums as a result of undue sanctions and travel restrictions placed against the Russian government and its citizens by extension. *Item 5(f) was subsequently closed.*

The Permanent Forum recommended increased inclusion and participation of Indigenous Peoples within the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, direct access to financial resources for Indigenous Peoples which could be formalized by the creation of Indigenous Peoples-managed

financial mechanism, as well as calling upon IFAD to strengthen policies on consultation of Indigenous Peoples and their food systems. It was further proposed that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change prepare a report on threats against, and opportunities for, Indigenous Peoples within the scopes of climate adaptation, mitigation, as well as loss and damages.

Tuesday, 18.04

- **Item 3: Special theme of session: “Indigenous Peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach” (combined morning-afternoon)**

Ms. Razan Al Mubarak, President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) delivered a keynote speech on the critical importance of Indigenous Peoples in protecting the environment. Ms. Al Mubarak added that elevating their voices was critical due to Indigenous Peoples’ territories being the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. **Mr. Sam Myers, President of the Planetary Health Alliance** evoked the centrality of nature in relation to human health, further calling upon participants to view human rights to clean, healthy and sustainable environments, rights to health and rights defined by UNDRIP, as all intrinsically connected. Mr. Myers closed his speech by evoking the synonymous nature of the land and its peoples. **Permanent Forum Member Mr. Geoffrey Roth** presented study [E/C.19/2023/5](#) “*Indigenous Determinants of Health in the 2030 Agenda*”. Mr. Roth spoke about the interconnectedness of determinants of health and recommended that the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) refer to, and adopt, the term *Indigeneity* as an overarching determinant of health. Use of the term would present Indigeneity as a factor to consider when discussing health at the global and national level.

States made numerous contributions, providing participants with broad summaries of state-led initiatives at the regional and national levels, the **United States of America** notably arguing that only acknowledging a country’s past could serve to allow societies to move forward. Partnerships with Indigenous Peoples within climate change mitigation and integration of Indigenous Peoples health systems into state structures were broadly supported. Notable exceptions were the **Russian Federation** which used their speaking time to condemn US authorities for not granting visas to Indigenous Peoples wanting to participate at the UNPFII, as well as **Cameroon** which voiced their confusion at the use of the term “Indigenous Peoples”, claiming they had difficulties in integrating the lack of an UNDRIP-proposed definition of the term into their constitution.

Indigenous Peoples Organizations and **NGOs** made strong contributions condemning, and raising awareness towards, ongoing human rights violations resulting, in part, from state conservation measures and the creation of protected areas. Lack of access to healthcare and mental health services as a result of over-reaching state legislation, lasting colonial impacts and racism and marginalization, was further raised. The positive role Indigenous Peoples could play in climate mitigation measures was also discussed and widely supported by Indigenous delegates and states. Particularly impactful statements were read out by **Sami Youth**, strongly condemning continued operations at the Fosen windfarm which had already been determined to be infringing upon Sami land, as well as the **Global Indigenous Youth Caucus** who called upon the UNGA to include the rights of Indigenous Peoples as social determinants of health, as well as calling upon the organ to create binding resolutions on climate change. *Item 3 was subsequently closed.*

Discussions on Item 3 led to several recommendations to the UNGA and other UN Agencies, the World Health Organization was called upon to create a high-level consultative body with Indigenous

representatives so as to guide the organization's work on human and planetary health. Permanent Forum members further recommended that increased funding be earmarked so as to increase access to healthcare services for Indigenous Peoples. The Forum also requested that the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) be applicable for all green transition projects undertaken by states and the private sector. The Permanent Forum further recommended that the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), WHO, CBD, FAO and UNITAR conduct and coordinate joint regional trainings on Traditional Forms of Knowledge (TKs), Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs) and associated Genetic Resources (GRs).

Wednesday, 19.04

- **Item 5(d) Human rights dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.**

Structured as an exchange between **Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Mr. Francisco Cali Tzay**, the **Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the rights of Indigenous Peoples Mr. Binota Dhamai**, the **Chair of the Permanent Forum Mr. Dario Mejia Montalvo**, and participants, this session was designed to call upon the potential of the Permanent Forum in identifying constructive pathways towards ensuring that the rights of Indigenous Peoples are implemented and respected.

In sum, this dialogue enabled participants to share regional and local concerns, and to give progress reports on their activities. Lack of state recognition and criminalization of Indigenous leaders in South-America and South-East Asia were high amongst concerns shared. This dialogue also served as preparation for the SR's upcoming visit to Canada where advancement of Indigenous Peoples rights had faced numerous challenges in being implemented at the provincial levels. In contrast, the **Grand Council of the Crees** stressed the importance of the Pope's previous visit whose responses towards the lasting impact of the residential school system had permitted for a healing process to begin.

The situation of Indigenous Peoples in Africa was also discussed, with **Endorois Communities** detailing the forced expropriations suffered by Indigenous Peoples in Kenya, as well as a progressive invasion by pastoralists who sought to dispossess Endorois communities from their livestock. **Permanent Forum Member, Mr. Vital Bambanze** provided further clarity on the situation faced by Indigenous Peoples on the continent, whereby state-determined "Indigeneity" and lack of objective recognition of the status of Indigenous Peoples as defined by UNDRIP and associated legislation, hindered the possibility for constructive dialogue with states. Mr. Bambanze expressed his wish to see far more active participation and support from African states.

Dev Kumae Sunuwar of the **United Nations Voluntary Fund (UNVF)** gave a progress report in which he called to attention the increased scope of the Fund which could now serve more effectively to support delegates at the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights (FBHR), as well as increased support available for participating in the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycles. This increased support, Mr Sunuwar clarified, was due to the Fund's capacity having tripled from previous years.

Following discussions, **Mr. Francisco Cali Tzay** gave participants a brief summary of topics raised that his office would follow up on, namely:

- Recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Land.
- Allocation of funding for land conservation projects.
- Adoption of a rights-based approach in implementing conservation measures.
- Promotion of the rights of Indigenous Women.

- Inclusivity of education and rights.
- Area protection.
- Contribution to biodiversity
- State support of Indigenous Peoples participation at International Forums and nationally.

As outcomes of this session, the Permanent Forum recommended that ILO 169 ratifying states update their legislation to conform with the Convention. It further singled out Norway for its government to address allegations of hate speech targeting Sami People. Colonial states should guarantee remedies and reparations for affected Indigenous Peoples, as well as calling upon all states to guarantee that private businesses respect Indigenous Peoples rights. In the same context, the Permanent Forum recommended that states should ensure the application of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and more specifically implementing the UN's "Protect, Respect and Remedy" framework and Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. On the subject of a recent Constitutional Court ruling from Guatemala, the Permanent Forum called upon Guatemala to uphold the ruling on Indigenous Midwifery and access to these services. The Permanent Forum further recommended that states urgently update their legislation to prevent the undue removal of Indigenous children from their families and communities, as well as calling upon Canada and the USA to decommission Pipeline 5.

Thursday 20.04(morning)/ Tuesday 25.04 (afternoon)

- **Item 4: Discussion on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum (economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights), with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

Item 4 was split into two sessions spanning over the course of two weeks. As a result Indigenous Peoples Organizations made numerous contributions during the first week, while participation was much lighter during the second week, indeed over 22 absent delegations were called upon during the week 2 session, resulting in a much shorter session.

Discussions largely centred around state and international agency progress reports in seeking to integrate UNDRIP into their policies aimed at achieving 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but the theme of the session facilitated contributions around the themes of Indigenous Peoples participation, FPIC and access to remedial mechanisms in contexts of human rights violations suffered as a result of state conservation measures, criminalization and/or lack of state recognition.

With regards to the theme of the session, **Asociación Ak'Tenamit** recommended that inclusion and participation of Indigenous Peoples and their concerns be increased at the Midterm Review Session of the SDGs. This recommendation was reverberated by the Permanent Forum in their recommendations to the UNGA. **Native American Rights Fund (NARF)** further called upon WIPO to guarantee Indigenous Peoples participation at the upcoming Diplomatic Conference to Conclude a Legal Instrument on TK/TCEs/GRs and Associated Resources. Overall, Delegates from states and Indigenous Peoples Organizations agreed that increased participation and consultation of Indigenous Peoples within the context of the 2030 Agenda should be encouraged and reinforced, Indigenous Peoples Organizations further encouraging inclusion and participatory powers for Indigenous representatives in all national action plans aimed at implementing UNDRIP.

While this dialogue presented state goodwill, **Tanzania** spoke out against Indigenous Peoples, claiming that they did not exist in the country and that all of the country's land was public and entrusted to the President so that no private land supposedly exists in the country. Tanzania further

disseminated an annex document entitled "[Rebuttal of Claims Made by So-Called Indigenous Peoples of Tanzania](#)" in which they detailed their perspective, claiming Maasai communities present in the country's national parks were illegally occupying these areas and that the government had every right to coercively remove them from these areas.

Two texts were presented during this session. At the first meeting, **Permanent Forum Member Mr. Vital Bambanze** presented [E/C.19/2023/3](#) "*International Expert Group Meeting on the Theme "Truth, transitional justice and reconciliation processes"*" which served as the outcome document of an Expert Group Meeting held in Bogota prior to the UNPFII. This document, Mr. Bambanze remarked, should serve as a remedy for grave human rights violations suffered by Indigenous Peoples, further aiming to provide an alternate perspective on reconciliation mechanisms, conscious and inclusive of Indigenous viewpoints and cosmovision. At the second meeting, **Permanent Forum Member Mr. Alexei Tsykarev** presented [E/C.19/2023/6](#) "*Implementing Free, Prior and Informed Consent in the Context of Indigenous Peoples*". Mr. Tsykarev gave participants a brief summary of this study which found **(a)** Private and government-backed companies should refrain and desist from viewing Indigenous Peoples as stakeholders, but rather as rights-holders; **(b)** the International Community needs to promote the exchanging of views; **(c)** the use and associated practices of Free Prior and Informed Consent should be generalized and should constitute a set of precedents so that states and governments do not fear its use, with Indigenous Peoples acting as mediators in the implementation process.

As outcomes of this session, the Permanent Forum recommended to the HRC that they request OHCHR prepare a companion report by 2025 in relation with SG's note on the UN approach towards transitional justice, further recommending that states and UN entities cooperate with Indigenous Peoples so as to understand and include their situation during the midpoint review of SDGs at the 2023 summit, as well as during preparatory meetings.

Monday, 24.04

- **Item 6: Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council, the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and emerging issues.**

Permanent Forum Expert Ms. Hannah McGlade opened consideration on agenda item 6 by asking panelists **Mr. Gam Shimray, Indigenous Coordinating Body (ICB)** and **Ms. Juliana Akoryo, Commissioner for Family Affairs of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development of Uganda**, to provide a brief overview of Permanent Forum future activities. Mr. Shimray gave a broad overview of the positive progress being made towards a new status for Indigenous Peoples proposed by the Enhanced Participation process, further highlighting the need for Indigenous Peoples and UN mechanisms to overcome enduring challenges both at the international and local level. Mr. Shimray further spoke about the immense potential of Indigenous Peoples knowledge, and the need for safeguards granting Indigenous Peoples the ability to protect their forms of knowledge. Ms. Akoryo sought to give a summary of the activities undertaken under the National Affirmative Action for Indigenous Peoples Program whose aim is to overcome challenges towards achieving full enjoyment of Indigenous Peoples' rights. This program, she specified, was not designed to grant exclusive rights to Indigenous Peoples, but rather ensure that they are able to fully benefit from their pre-existing human- and citizen-rights.

Norway, on behalf of the Nordic Countries spoke about the difficulties of integrating Indigenous Languages into technology sectors. The delegation recommended that the Permanent Forum address

this issue, seeing how lack of integration could engender decline/loss of these languages. **The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** exhorted participants to examine the critical importance of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations, further presenting the United Nation's duty in implementing UNDRIP as defined by articles 3, 4, 18, 19 and 21, EMRIP further extended an invitation to their upcoming session which was held in July in Geneva. **Permanent Forum Member Ms. Tove Søvndahl Gant** specified that the Forum, as an expert body, could not make any decisions regarding Enhanced Participation, which would rather occur at the HRC or UNGA. The expert nevertheless proposed that seating arrangements could be looked at towards empowering Indigenous voices.

Vietnam, using the term 'ethnic groups' to refer to Indigenous Peoples in the country, highlighted the full enjoyment of their rights, nevertheless deploring criticisms made against the country by individuals, claiming that it went against the goals of the forum. **China** supported the creation and expression of mechanisms to analyze the issue and impact of boarding schools on Indigenous Peoples. **Mexico** expressed their interest towards organizing an international seminar on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, planning for it to take place in October 2023, the delegation further exhorted states to urgently implement the right to self-determination as enshrined by UNDRIP. **Guatemala** presented their efforts at implementing UNDRIP and ILO 169, calling for an increased focus on the rights of Indigenous Peoples with disabilities. **India** claimed the principle of self-determination was not applicable in the Indian context, expressing their fear that an expansion of this right could lead to the creation of superficial divisions between two Peoples. The delegation further regretted the use of this forum by certain delegations to advance their own agendas and called for it not to misuse the principles of Sovereignty and independence set forth by the UN Charter. **Chile** highlighted the urgent need for the Forum to adopt additional provisions to ensure that Indigenous Peoples' interests are represented in states, further calling upon the Forum to examine pressures in regard to the exploitation of natural resources. **Bolivia** spoke about the insufficiency of the Permanent Forum in ensuring that Indigenous voices are taken into account, and that a way to overcome this challenge would be granting Indigenous Peoples UN Observer Status.

Tanzania once more expressed their fears towards this Permanent Forum being turned into a 'hall of accusations', calling upon the United Nations to see the situation on the ground, rather than believing purported propaganda. **Ecuador** presented their efforts towards implementing UNDRIP, highlighting the fact that their national agenda was promulgated around the Declaration. **Indonesia** expressed the complexity in implementing the principle of self-determination due to the country's multi-ethnicity, the delegation further condemned any attempts at justifying separatism through self-determination. **Images for Inclusion** called upon the government of Chile to reduce inequalities suffered by Mapuche Peoples, further asking the state to develop tools and funds which Indigenous Peoples could use for their own initiatives. **Khmer Kampuchea Krom Federation** recommended that the 2024 High-Level Celebration of the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples include an item related to a future summit. **The Assyrian Aid Society of Iraq** called for the creation of a mechanism to preserve the security of Assyrians and their homeland.

As outcomes of this session, the Permanent Forum recommended that UNGA convene a *World Conference on Indigenous Peoples +10* which would take place in 2025. The Permanent Forum further recommended the UNSG that they submit a report, co-authored with Indigenous Peoples, on the implementation of the 2014 *World Conference on Indigenous Peoples* and *Alta Conference* outcome documents, as well as calling upon UNSG to ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples at the *Summit of the Future*.

Friday, 28.04

- Item 7 – Provisional agenda for the twenty-third session of the Permanent Forum
- Item 8 Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its twenty-second session

At the closing session of the 22nd edition of the UNPFII, the provisional agenda [E/C.19/2024/1](#) for the [23rd session](#), which will take place 15-26, April 2024 in New York, was formally approved by Forum Members. A [closing video](#) was shown to participants and a [poem](#) (only available in Spanish) written by Sarawi Andrago and Dario Iza Pilaquinga, was read out.

Document [E/2023/43-E/C.19/2023/7](#) “Report of the 22nd Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (with oral amendments)” was formally approved by Forum Members, the Chair of the Permanent Forum accompanying this document with a [statement](#) (only available in Spanish) read out at the beginning of the session. Subsequently, the 22nd Session of the Permanent Forum was formally closed.

3. Summary of Regional Dialogues

- **Central & South America and the Caribbean.**

Permanent Forum Member Mr. Rodrigo Paillalef Monard presented the most pressing issues to be covered by this dialogue, namely:

- *Political participation* within the state and how Indigenous Peoples can act across the region as an electoral minority and have political participation in their local government to attain their rights.
 - Question 1: What are greatest challenges in political participation?
 - Question 2: What action is needed to end the criminalization of Human Rights defenders in establishing legal norms? How can these barriers be overcome?
- *Migration* - Most people must look outside borders established by states. We see asylum situations and migration.
 - Question: how could states and stakeholders address asylum issues to comply with their human rights?
- *Extractive industries and business activities* - in the region and in the world, there are tensions between extractive industries and Indigenous Peoples. We are concerned by the energy transition. We need to do this energy transition carefully.
 - Question: How can policies fully guarantee to be in line with the rights of Indigenous Peoples?
- *Barriers for women and girls*
 - What can be done to overcome these barriers and enhance their participation in political and social dialogue?

Ms. Pauline Sukhai MP, Minister of Amerindian Affairs of Guyana felt pride in the implementation process of UNDRIP and CEDAW. In Guyana, 10% of the population is Indigenous, but 39% of local councils are headed by Indigenous Women, these are important advances the minister added. The government of Guyana encourages Women and Girls in education, as their inclusion and participation is seen as vital in combatting poverty across the LATAM region.

Bolivia spoke of significant challenges which Indigenous Peoples continue to face, the delegation welcomed the discussion of Indigenous Peoples language, specifically usage of 'Mother Earth'. It discussed the continued impact of colonialism from the Global North, the necessity of preserving knowledge held by Indigenous Women, as well as the need to include the topic of Indigenous Women and Girls as a permanent Agenda Item. The representative further raised the topic of [UN/RES/76/2003](#) on the topic of Human Rights Defenders, adding that concrete measures needed to be taken to protect them both at home and abroad. Bolivia recommended that the UN Secretariat adopt the capitalization of Indigenous Peoples in their language.

Maya Leaders Alliance of Southern Belize called upon the state of Belize to comply with the international instruments and rights enshrined within UNDRIP, urging the governments of Belize and Guyana not to criminalize and marginalize Indigenous Peoples in the countries. The delegation further recommended and encouraged an effective implementation of CEDAW Gen. Rec. 39.

Chair of the Permanent Forum Mr. Darío José Mejía Montalvo sought to clarify the point raised on the capitalization of Indigenous Peoples, adding that its inclusion is important and should be the norm moving forward, especially considering the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. The capitalization of Indigenous Peoples would also serve to avoid confusion with other populations and categories created for economic issues. Mr. Montalvo added that steps forward had already been made, especially in the area of public policy but the persecution of Indigenous Leaders remains and that recognizing its continued nature sends a powerful message.

SemAnahuac spoke about their daily struggles caused by their stewardship of their territories, adding that the importance of autonomy and sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples on their lands was not discussed nearly enough during the Forum. The delegation saw themselves as an independent nation state and demanded that they be viewed as such.

Mexico highlighted the effectiveness of measures implemented towards opening dialogues with Indigenous Peoples in overcoming barriers and providing effective participation in decision-making. The delegation congratulated its restitution of tens of thousands of hectares to Yuki Peoples, based upon a 2021 ruling, which fits within a continued process of redress for the centuries of injustice faced by Indigenous Peoples. Mexico further lent its support to the capitalization of Indigenous Peoples, adding that this is already something which it applied in treaty-drafting.

The **United Confederation Taino People** lamented the lack of access towards Indigenous-aimed UN programs for Indigenous Peoples in the Caribbean, adding that it seemed like those living in the Caribbean were often forgotten about.

Stichting Mulokot raised concern at the disproportionate impact of climate change on Indigenous Peoples in Surinam, affecting food security, health, access to land and further generating a negative impact on the mental health of communities. The delegation further lamented their lack of a platform for raising concern to the Surinamese government, adding that there appeared to be no real progress being made by the government in implementing UNDRIP.

Parlamento Rapa Nui spoke about their forced assimilation, as well as racism suffered at the hands of the Chilean state, further calling to attention the fact that the country's constitution did not guarantee the participation of Indigenous Peoples in decision-making bodies. Speaking about the negotiation process of the *Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)*, also known as the *TPP-11*, the delegation lamented the lack of consultation of Indigenous Peoples. **Achuar People of Ecuador** presented their method of preserving their history, culture,

territory, and language by promoting tourism, using proceeds to maintain their lands and fight extractive industries.

Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Mr. Francisco Cali Tzay regretted the fact that this dialogue was unilateral, lacking in state presence. Speaking specifically about the green transition, Mr. Cali Tzay addressed the need for these kinds of dialogues to be reflected within the territories where Indigenous Peoples suffer the most, especially when impacted by green energy transition measures. The Special Rapporteur added, this was not to say that he was against a green transition, but rather that he did not support the means currently used in seeking to achieve it.

Latin-American Indigenous Women's Caucus called to attention the importance of CEDAW Gen. Rec. 39 and the impact of conflict upon children, necessitating an enhanced respect of their human rights.

Guatemala sought to raise the three main difficulties its government faced in implementing ILO Conv. 169, namely:

- A general mistrust springing from the country's difficult past with Indigenous Peoples
 - Disinformation fueling the pre-existing mistrust by people living outside of Indigenous Peoples territories. This hampers Indigenous Peoples organizing to engage in the regulation of their consultation.
 - Illegitimate claims for the consultation of Indigenous Peoples.
- **Africa.**

Vice-Chair of the Permanent Forum, Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim opened the regional dialogue on Africa. **Mr. Bambanze** welcomed participants, eagerly awaiting fruitful discussions between states and Indigenous Peoples. Mr. Bambanze explained that Indigenous Peoples were located throughout Africa, occupying a varied field of livelihoods, such as hunter-gatherers in Central Africa, or pastoralists in East Africa. Mr. Bambanze further reminded participants that this was a space respectful of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and that lack thereof would not be tolerated.

Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Mr. Francisco Cali Tzay noted the reduced participation of Indigenous Peoples from Africa, further asking states to renew their invitation for country visits to be made. The Special Rapporteur further thanked Tanzania for their invitation. Mr. Cali Tzay added that Article 1 of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESC)* and Article 3 of UNDRIP stipulated that Indigenous Peoples have the right to self-determination, nevertheless, this should not be seen as a challenge to the territorial sovereignty of states and will not result in instances of secession. On the contrary, it is the lack of respect of these Articles that generates conflict, therefore calling upon states to apply these in their own legislation. Mr. Cali Tzay reminded states of the benefits mutual respect could generate, calling upon them to respect the rights conferred by ILO Conv. 169 and UNDRIP, and calling the Indigenous Peoples of Africa "treasures of humanity". Before concluding, Mr. Cali Tzay noted that Indigenous Peoples have a right to participate in this Forum, as well as other International Mechanisms, and any attempt to prohibit their participation is viewed as a violation of international rights. As to visas, this issue needs to be remediated as quickly as possible.

Former (as of July 2023) **Chair of the Expert Mechanism Mr. Binota Moy Dhamai** welcomed EMRIP's participation in this regional dialogue, noting that it was the first occasion for EMRIP to participate. Speaking specifically of the topic of the militarization of conservation in protected areas, Mr. Dhamai noted this was a process which was rapidly expanding in Africa, with rangers receiving military

training, affecting in particular nomadic Indigenous Peoples who are sometimes forced to move to areas which do not satisfy their subsistence needs. Mr. Dhamai further noted the potential of learning from the study presented at this year's EMRIP for African Member states, highlighting the need for dialogue between Indigenous Peoples and states to take place, which, according to UNDRIP, is key in promoting their rights.

The **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)** spoke to participants about the potential of the *Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Program (SGP)*, adding that it was now a 30-year program active in 128 countries. Now in its 8th cycle, even more countries have asked to participate. In 2017 one of the key findings of the GEF evaluation office was that Indigenous Peoples participation was amongst the most important priorities. Based on this result, former **Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Victoria Tauli-Corpuz** asked for a larger analysis of the Indigenous Peoples portfolio where regional disparities in access were found. In contrast, Africa has quite a high access to GEF SGPs, made possible by increased access of UNDP in the region. The representative further added that they supported the APAC Consortium, further recognizing the customary rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Vice-Chair of the Permanent Forum Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim subsequently closed the panel portion of this dialogue and opened the floor to participants.

Tanzania reiterated its previous position, claiming that there were no Indigenous Peoples in the country, as the government considers all Tanzanian citizens Indigenous. The delegation further claimed that the Tanzanian government granted all citizens the same rights, constituting a haven of peace free from reprisals and with freedom of speech. Furthermore, the delegation had already contacted UNESCO relating to the purported Indigenous Peoples living in the Ngorongoro region. Speaking more specifically about the Masai, the representative added that these Peoples lived in over 10 regions and that their way of life is contrary to the government's position as they are not linked to any specific territories. The representative further extended an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to conduct a country visit and engage in dialogue.

Mauritius sought to speak about the participation of **Chagossian Voices** at the Forum, adding that as a multi-cultural and -religious country, discrimination was not tolerated. The representative further related the results of a previous International Court of Justice decision, whereby a restitution of the Chagossian Archipelago was promulgated. The representative added that Chagos, and Chagossians were part of their government's decolonization efforts, but that the presence of UK-based Chagossian Voices was not justified.

Ogiek Peoples Development Program (OPDP) spoke about a Kenyan court ruling which recognized the government's responsibility in providing reparations for damages they caused upon Ogiek hunter-gatherer communities, adding that there have been delays in implementing this decision. The delegation asked that Kenya enforce land ownership in accordance with the UDHR, the African Charter, UNDRIP and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The government must further enforce and respect the Free Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples where numerous projects have been carried out without consultation. The delegation calls upon Kenya to consult its Indigenous Peoples.

The **International Labor Organization (ILO)** presented participants with their own statistics, measuring the highest population of Indigenous Peoples, and more specifically those living in rural areas, were to be found in Africa. Nevertheless, these Indigenous Peoples still face many difficulties,

in part due to the fact that only a single African state had ratified ILO Conv. 169. The representative added that ILO was willing to strengthen dialogue and partnership in increasing the implementation of the Convention, this process may also be facilitated by a [recent course](#) which the ILO had published on the subject.

Cameroon opened their statement addressing the fact that they did not prepare any written recommendations. Nevertheless, the representative drew participants' attention towards the dangers of automatic replication from one country to another, adding that the concept of self-identification must be context-specific, especially in a country like Cameroon where 250 ethnic groups identify themselves by language, therefore considering themselves as Indigenous Peoples. The representative added that according to the *Martinez-Cobo Report* self-governance is something that is already in place, as was territorial self-governance. Nevertheless, in the context of Africa the objective criteria listed in the Report cannot be reduced to multi-ethnic and tribal issues. The delegate posed a question, wondering how indigeneity was to be understood in Africa where only Pygmies are recognized as Indigenous Peoples. He added that if rights are granted to specific groups, then this would cause problems within countries.

Permanent Forum Member Mr. Vital Bambanze warned participants that the question of subjectivity was not something which could be accepted at this Forum, adding that there was a need to be objective for the sake of others. Mr. Bambanze further addressed the fact that the representative of Cameroon contradicted themselves in saying that Pygmies existed as Indigenous Peoples. Furthermore, as Cameroon is part of the African Commission, itself emanating from the African Union, their membership already constitutes a recognition of the existence of Indigenous Peoples by default. In addition, Mr. Bambanze raised a previous point highlighting the fact that self-determination did not constitute secession, only constituting respect for dignity and equality, as well as full enjoyment of all universal rights. Mr Bambanze concluded by calling for an evaluation of international documents claiming that Indigenous Peoples in Africa are not calling for additional rights being granted to them, but rather rights which had been denied to them.

Vice-Chair of the Permanent Forum Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim exhorted the representative of **Cameroon** to become acquainted with International Instruments related to Indigenous Peoples and to contact the ministry in charge of organizing the International Day of Indigenous Peoples in the country.

Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Mr. Binota Moy Dhamai called upon states to be more inclusive, reminding participants that divisions destroyed everything, and especially the land and cultures of Indigenous Peoples. The issue of self-determination, Mr. Dhamai added, was fundamental for Indigenous Peoples, who seek to be included and consulted on decisions which affect their futures. This should not be viewed as a challenge to the policies of states, but rather an attempt at being reincluded after having been excluded. Under International Law, Indigenous Peoples do have the right to self-determination and Mr. Dhamai called upon participants to constructively work together in strengthening their participation. To conclude, the Chair reminded the Forum that its purpose was to generate dialogue, proposing that all participants work together towards including Indigenous Peoples into their societies.

Unissons-nous pour la Promotion des Batwa (UNIPROBA) wished to highlight the government of Burundi's efforts towards promoting Batwa Indigenous Peoples in certain sectors, specifically education with another strategy implementing access to land for Batwa Peoples. This, in combination with academic scholarships was just one of the ways which the government of Burundi recognized the Batwa Peoples, understanding that they have the same rights as all other citizens.

Morocco underlined the rich heritage of its country, which includes elements like the Amazigh language, which, via Article 5 of its Constitution is classified as one of the country's official languages. The representative further claimed that Amazigh Peoples were not discriminated against in accessing education, language, and healthcare. From an institutional perspective, 300 million Dirhams had been earmarked towards developing Moroccan languages and preserving cultural heritage. An Amazigh language television channel had been launched as well, with the representative further mentioning that the country's executive had also launched a project which would remain operational from 2022-2025, dedicated to integrating Amazigh Peoples into public life. To conclude, the delegate expected that the Forum strengthens international cooperation.

H.E Ms. Kitoko Gata Ngoulou, Ambassador of Tchad to the United States congratulated Forum members and participants of the leadership they have shown at UN Mechanisms. H.E lamented the negative effects of climate change upon Tchad, causing irreparable losses of their culture. The Ambassador remained available to continue dialogue.

Association Consortium pour les Aires et Territoires du Patrimoine Autochtone et Communautaire (APAC) congratulated Indigenous Peoples Organizations from Central and South America and the Caribbean for their good organization and close engagement with governments. The representative further proposed to the Permanent Forum that inter-regional meetings aimed at exchanging experiences and skills of different Indigenous Peoples of the regions be organized, allowing for vital dialogues to take place between African Indigenous Peoples and those in the LATAC region. The delegate also encouraged governments to protect Indigenous Languages.

A representative of the **Amazigh Community** raised concern at the threat faced by Amazigh culture and language, calling upon the Permanent Forum to guarantee that governments implement equitable policies aimed at promoting sustainable development. The representative further called upon the Forum to ensure that all cultures and languages are preserved and protected.

Bolivia thanked and congratulated the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adding that the capitalization of Indigenous Peoples was something which was extremely important, hoping that the Permanent Forum contact the UN Secretariat to ensure that it would be applied moving forward.

The **UN Voluntary Fund** highlighted the fact that 40 delegates from Africa obtained grants to facilitate their participation at the Permanent Forum, nevertheless visa obtention difficulties continued to add challenges. In addition, OHCHR would soon launch a Portuguese-speaking program aimed at Indigenous Peoples in Brazil which African Portuguese-speakers could also benefit from. Nevertheless, the representative lamented the fact that no African state had contributed to the Voluntary Fund, hoping for more support, even if only political.

Chair of the Permanent Forum Mr. Darío José Mejía Montalvo thanked all participants and facilitators for their contributions to this regional dialogue. He added that culture, and the preservation thereof, was to be a condition for all humanity. What became apparent to him, especially on the subject of climate change, was that what stood out to Indigenous Peoples were not challenges to domestic laws, but rather preoccupation for the fate of the entire planet. Mr. Montalvo added that this Forum served to open dialogues, further inviting member states to come up with solutions in resolving the many problems the planet faced, as well as acknowledging diversity.

Vice-Chair of the Permanent Forum Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim subsequently closed the regional dialogue on Africa.

1. Eastern Europe, Russian Federation and Transcaucasia:

Permanent Forum Member Mr. Keith M. Harper presided over this regional dialogue, presenting UNDRIP as a guiding document for contributions to be made by participants taking part in this session. **Ukraine** lamented that following the annexation of Crimea in 2014, all Indigenous Peoples formerly living in Ukraine were under Russian occupation and Indigenous Representatives were being repressed, accused, and investigated as terrorists. The illegal mobilization of Tatars into the Russian military was to be considered as a crime of war and contrary to the Geneva Convention. The delegate further called to attention previous statements made by Indigenous Peoples in Russia, where lack of infrastructure constituted a major challenge. The delegate then contrasted this element with the production cost of missiles, which rose from 2 to 6.5 million USD*, whereby a single missile represented the cost of one year's worth of life for more than 2000 Russian citizens. Using these two elements, Ukraine sought to highlight the hypocrisy of the Russian position, adding that only by being united could Indigenous Peoples be protected.

The **Russian Federation** sought to raise concern at the lack of Indigenous Peoples participation during this second week of the Forum, suggesting that the Agenda should be better organized. Historically, Russia had always provided a space for the development of Indigenous Peoples in the country. The delegate further placed doubt on the legitimacy of organizations speaking on behalf of Crimean Tatars, claiming that they only spoke for the Ukrainian government. The delegate criticized the lack of region-specific experts, which despite unilateral restrictions introduced by Western and Arctic states against Russia, could have continued humanitarian and intellectual exchanges. The delegate further lamented the fact that Indigenous Peoples organizations based in exile used their position to spread misinformation.

An **Indigenous Peoples Organization from the Russian Federation speaking on behalf of Crimean Tatars**, sought to recant the statement made by Ukraine, notably on the allegations of forced mobilization of Indigenous Peoples, stating that Tatars volunteered to serve, seeking to contribute to Russian efforts. The representative also addressed the purported lack of support from Russian authorities, claiming that Crimean Tatars did indeed receive funding from the state, whereby support had not weakened since Crimea had been annexed. The delegate further claimed that they were outraged at the level of support Ukraine had been receiving from the Forum, claiming that 'fake news' and 'disinformation' had been spread, and that they were hurt at how easily these so-called facts had been disseminated throughout Forum proceedings.

Community of indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North "TYAKHA" condemned Ukraine's description of Indigenous Peoples living in the North of Russia as 'baseless claims'. Speaking on the topic of healthcare, the representative clarified that they did indeed have a focus on expanding healthcare services, aimed in part at providing services to Nomadic groups. To bolster this claim, the representative provided participants with a recent example of an organization from the energy sector which flew out to provide medical screening for Reindeer-Herders, concluding on this that they themselves felt that Indigenous Peoples in the North of Russia did not suffer from a lack of healthcare services.

RAIPON also wished to address the statement made by Ukraine, adding that Crimea had always been a part of the Russian Federation, further stating that Ukraine had previously never recognized Tatars as Indigenous Peoples. Speaking more specifically on the topic of so-called forced conscription of Indigenous Peoples in Russia, the representative clarified that many Indigenous Peoples in Russia had

voluntarily joined the Russian armed forces. To conclude, the representative qualified these dialogues as necessary, apologizing to participants for this dialogue to take time away from the regional dialogue on the Arctic.

Permanent Forum Member Ms. Valentina Vyacheslavovna Sovkina (Russian Federation) presented her methodology of work, using normative documents to take stock of various legislations aimed at improving the lives of Indigenous Peoples. In the case of Russia this allowed for the identification of 'good laws', while also allowing for the observation of laws which did nothing but identify the recognition of certain Indigenous Peoples.

**The type of missile this cost refers to was not made clear by the delegation. For reference the cost of a Kh-22 missile is estimated at US\$1 million.*

The caveat to all this being the nature of Russian governance systems which stipulates regional autonomy and responsibility, while also maintaining a centralized system of governance. The Permanent Forum Member further spoke about proposed fishing laws which set quotas on fishing, thus severely limiting the subsistence capabilities of many Indigenous communities which relied upon fishing for livelihoods, this would in turn force those affected to seek alternative livelihoods, engendering forced assimilation.

Permanent Forum Member Ms. Tove Søvndahl Gant sought to speak about the linguistic rights of Indigenous Peoples, which still faces opposition from certain states who continue to fail to recognize Indigenous Peoples, nevertheless the International Decade of Indigenous Languages remained a large opportunity for revitalizing and preserving languages and many examples of good practices were proposed throughout the two weeks of the Permanent Forum. Recalling the first statement made by the Russian Federation which questioned the setting of the agenda, Ms. Gant states that this would be taken into account in order to make the program as efficient as possible, allowing as much input as possible.

The **Russian Federation** supported the contributions made so far hoping to provide clarifications for certain topic discussed. Russia had at the federal level, adopted a national plan in implementing the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, with events and recommendations made to facilitate the localization of events which has been adopted by local authorities, ensuring a participation by both experts and local communities. Recalling the statement made by the Permanent Forum Member from the region, the delegate agreed that certain small groups may not have sufficient access to teaching tools but granting them these was made difficult by the sheer number of Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Languages and within these certain dialects spoken only by handfuls of Peoples. Ensuring that all these languages are taught is a daunting task, and the Russian representative invited the Permanent Forum member to provide solutions towards ensuring that 300+ languages are included in Russian school curriculums, adding that they were willing to implement any creative solutions to this task.

The **UN Voluntary Fund** sought to address two points related to this regional dialogue. Firstly, the delegate clarified that the Fund was not receiving large amounts of financial support from the region in question. The second point related to the travel difficulties caused by the ongoing conflict in the region. The representative clarified that even after delegates from the region had successfully applied to have their participation funded, issuance of visa is not guaranteed.

Permanent Forum Member Mr. Keith M. Harper closed this regional dialogue, reminding participants that the situation of Indigenous Peoples living in Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation and Transcaucasia remained a deep concern for the Permanent Forum, including Indigenous Peoples

from these regions living in exile. Mr. Harper further expressed the fact that the voices of Indigenous Peoples living in exile held no less rights than those still living in the region, further calling on participants to remain mindful of the impacts of armed conflict.

2. *Arctic.*

Please find a detailed summary of the content of the Arctic Regional Dialogue [here](#).

“The right to self-identification is a fundamental expression of Indigenous Peoples’ rights, and of the principle of self-determination, underscoring the importance of free, prior and informed consent. Adherence to these principles is particularly relevant for the proper functioning of Indigenous Peoples’ own decisionmaking bodies in the Arctic, including the Saami Parliaments. In this regard, the Permanent Forum looks forward to seeing progress on the agreement between Norway, Sweden and Finland for a Nordic Saami Convention, which will be essential in strengthening the rights of Saami, and their institutions and livelihoods, with the smallest possible interference of the state borders.

The realities of climate change are felt disproportionately in the Arctic, with serious consequences for its Indigenous Peoples. Military bases, mining projects and measures for climate change mitigation also negatively affect the health, including mental health, and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples.

The Permanent Forum was encouraged to hear of the initiatives and institutions established on Indigenous Peoples’ languages and welcomes further developments during the International Decade on Indigenous Languages and beyond”

3. *Asia*

Mr. Gam A. Shiray, Secretary General of Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and a member of the **Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch’ s Department of Economic and Social Affairs (IPDB/DESA)** presented a summary of the main issues raised during this Permanent Forum, namely:

- Indigenous Peoples have lost, and are losing, control over their resources and territories.
- There has been little progress in peace negotiations and/or the implementation of their rights and/or agreements put in place between Indigenous Peoples and states/governments.
- Indigenous Peoples feel resistance from the state to create and protect existing rights, therefore measuring a non-progress and/or regression of their rights.
- Rule of Law is often not upheld, this has been an issue raised partly by representative from the Asia region.
- The International Decade of Indigenous Languages has seen limited implementation and questions over how to effectively take the decade into account have been raised by states and other participants.
- The question of enhanced participation has also been raised and a parallel discussion on the subject took place in the first week (*see section on enhanced participation*)

Chair of the Expert Mechanism Mr. Binota Moy Dhamai reiterated the clarifications previously made (*see Africa Regional Dialogue*) about the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples, adding that the research and reporting done by EMRIP had already addressed, and brought clarity, to the question, to remediate member state confusion on the matter. He further expressed his hopefulness at this dialogue engendering relationship building.

A representative from an **Indigenous Peoples Organization in Nepal** provided his input on programs put in place to protect and revitalize Indigenous Languages sponsored by the Nepalese government, calling for increased development in the area, especially considering Nepal's multiethnic, multireligious, and multicultural society. The representative further called for increased implementation of the numerous commitments and conventions ratified by Nepal relating to Indigenous Peoples rights.

Mr. Magosaki Kaoru, Minister of the Japanese Permanent Mission presented the commitments made by the Japanese government in recognizing and protecting the cultures of Indigenous Peoples living in the country, namely Ainu and Okinawan Peoples. He further wished to address claims made about the so-called danger of releasing contaminated water from the Fukushima nuclear plant, claiming the ejections were far below standard radiation levels, characterizing prior claims made as 'misleading'.

Khmer-Kampuchea-Krom Federation began their contribution by lamenting the fact that many member states in Asia had not recognized Indigenous Peoples, even following the adoption of UNDRIP in 2007. Using Vietnam as an example, the representative was concerned at the fact that the state still refused to refer to Indigenous Peoples as such.

Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Center (SMHRIC) questioned China's claim that there were no Indigenous Peoples in the country. The delegation sought explanation from China, reminding the delegation that Mongolians, as well as other Indigenous Peoples had lived in China for thousands of years before the advent of communism. By denying Mongolians as Indigenous Peoples, the Chinese government is seeking to rewrite both of their histories. They further labelled the expunging of Mongolian culture as a form of genocide.

The **Delegation of China** began their contribution by expressing their support to this dialogue. The delegate added that Indigenous Peoples lived in over 70 countries, but not in China which doesn't have any, nevertheless the government of China remained supportive of promoting the rights of Indigenous Peoples. The delegation further asserted the claim that they did indeed preserve the languages and traditions of its ethnic groups, which included Mongolians.

Inisiasi Masyarakat Adat (IMA) lamented the lack of progress in recognizing and protecting Indigenous Peoples in Indonesia, further claiming that this was in part due to the Indonesian government prioritizing business profits. The representative concluded by calling upon the Permanent Forum to ensure that UN Agencies include Indigenous Peoples everywhere in Asia, the Permanent Forum should also ensure that all Member States actively involve Indigenous Peoples in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs and UN Guiding Principles.

Organisasi Pribumi Papua Barat (OPPB) called on Indonesia to organize a round-table discussion about West-Papuan and Moluccan territories. **Indonesia** reiterated its support for the Permanent Forum. The delegation would have preferred to use this dialogue to bolster partnerships aimed at generating solutions to environmental issues, lamenting the potential misuse by certain participants which promoted separatist agendas. The delegate further added that the Forum's basis was the UN Charter which respects the sovereignty of states and that its misuse would tarnish the trust placed in its hands. The representative concluded, stating that Molucca and West Papua formed integral parts of the Indonesian state.

A representative from an Indigenous Peoples Organization from Bangladesh congratulated its government's initiative in signing the 1997 Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord adding that it was a bold statement from the government and that it had already taken the initiative in implementing,

especially in the form of providing school textbooks written in Indigenous Languages to primary school students.

Mr. Gam A. Shiray questioned the lack of progress seemingly affecting all states in Asia towards the implementation of UNDRIP and the recognition of Indigenous Peoples. He called for meaningful steps forward to be made and for robust partnerships to form. **Mr. Binota Moy Dhamai** exhorted participants not to take Indigenous Peoples as enemies, rather he hoped that states would see them as friends who could meaningfully contribute to the building and development of states.

Permanent Forum Member Ms. Hanieh Moghani called upon states to engage in holistic approaches, emphasizing the positive potential brought by Indigenous Peoples. The Permanent Forum member imparted upon participants the need to constructively communicate between each other, in order to educate each other on the issue of Indigenous Peoples.

Pacific Permanent Forum Member Ms. Hannah McGlade opened the regional dialogue on the Pacific.

Mr. John Anari of the West Papua Liberation Organization sought to speak on the subject of UN/GA/RES/448 (1950). Following this resolution and an Indonesian incursion onto West Papua, a referendum took place in 1969 which legitimized Indonesia's claim on the territory, effectively making West Papua a part of the Indonesian state. This, the delegate claimed, had been an illegal referendum serving as a root cause of the long-lived conflict occurring in the area, which continues to claim many Indigenous lives. Mr. Anari hoped the Permanent Forum could aid him in recommending that the UN Security Council address the legality of the referendum and Indonesian sovereignty over West Papua.

New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council spoke about water management arrangements, as well as water governance, calling upon the Province's government to be more proactive in closing the gap in water access where an Indigenous population representing 10% of the population only had access to 2% of the water supply, in the delegation's mind signaling a new form of dispossession.

The **Solomon Islands** iterated its support towards Indigenous Peoples, highlighting the fact that 90% of its population, as well as their religion was Indigenous. Solomon further supported the FPIC of Indigenous Peoples and hoped to hear more issues faced by Indigenous Peoples in the region, to amplify these throughout the Pacific.

Mr. Ghazali Ohorella of the Indigenous Coordinating Body spoke about the ongoing operationalization of the COP15 Loss and Damage Fund which could see poorer states be granted financial assistance in managing negative consequences of climate-change-related events. With a committee containing one Indigenous Representative now having been formed, Mr. Ohorella hoped states and Indigenous Peoples could effectively be grantees.

Australia has already taken initial steps towards mitigating climate change, by confronting the issue at the community level, specifically by building up First Nations climate mitigation capacities. The delegation further supported the fact that Indigenous Peoples could only lead the way forward in fighting climate change and hoped the upcoming COP in Australia could be a steppingstone towards operationalizing climate change mitigation policies.

Parlamento Rapa Nui raised concern about the lack of inclusion of oceans and waters in existing climate change solutions and action plans.

The **UN Voluntary Fund** lamented the lack of grantees coming from the Pacific region, acknowledging the need to expand access. The Fund further extended their thanks to New Zealand and Australia for their financial support.

Watch Tower Fiji condemned so-called genocidal policies against Indigenous Peoples, claiming the government of Fiji willingly sidelines iTaukei concerns, in favor of minority group interests. The representative further added that there existed a gap in knowledge and that advocacy on this type of repression was only achievable through small NGOs with limited capacities.

Manaaki Matakāoa spoke about the disproportionate impact of climate change in the Pacific, whereby a legacy of colonial imperialism further exacerbated the situation in Māori communities. Speaking more specifically about large-scale flooding which occurred in New Zealand recently, the disaster allowed for several observations to be made, namely: **(a.)** Loss of lives caused by difficulties of accessing healthcare for remote communities; **(b.)** Centralization of healthcare services which renders access to long-term therapy difficult, **(c.)** Lack of adequate housing/poor housing, **(d.)** Psychological impact, i.e psychological harm and difficulties in accessing mental healthcare, **(e.)** Environmental and cultural harm/damage, directly contributing to an extinction of species, loss of natural resources and damage to the well-being of the environment and communities.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance called for the proposed enhanced participation of Indigenous Peoples to be submitted to UNGA, the representative further lent her support to the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples +10. The delegation read a pre-written statement by an Aboriginal Australian representative which called for the preservation and revitalization of Indigenous Languages, further expressing their will to see states reduce their fossil fuel use and extraction, as well as providing sufficient funding to First Nations communities to ensure self-determination.

Indonesia claimed that an individual had misused this forum to spread baseless claims against Indonesia, lamenting the fact that the forum's intended purpose was finding ways of engaging with Indigenous Peoples. The delegate further claimed that Papua had always been an integral part of Indonesia, as determined by the UN General Assembly and that groups perpetuating a false narrative on this claim have close links with terrorism and hoped that this issue would be addressed by the Permanent Forum.

Mr. John Anari of the West Papua Liberation Organization reiterated his previous statement, adding that Papua formed part of the decolonization list proposed by UN/GA/RES/448. Mr. Anari further responded to the claim made by Indonesia which asserted that 'his' soldiers had killed Indigenous Peoples, to which the representative retorted that it could not be further from the truth as 'his' soldiers were Indigenous themselves. Mr. Anari questioned why Indonesia needed to send the military if they had a legitimate claim upon the region, adding that this was indeed a form of occupation.

The **Solomon Islands** urged states to look at UNDRIP objectively, rather than subjectively, especially when discussing questions of territorial integrity. The delegation further called upon states to be more welcoming of Indigenous Peoples who seek to address human rights violations occurring in their communities and regions.

4. North America

Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Mr. Francisco Cali Tzay gave a brief overview of his visit to Alaska. What he witnessed was a significant impact on biodiversity caused by

climate change where new migratory patterns are being measured, as well as progressive disappearance of water resources. Mr. Cali Tzay also reflected upon the effects of killings and disappearances of Indigenous Women and the impacts of intergenerational trauma which constitute leading causes in alarmingly high suicide rates among Indigenous Peoples.

The **National Congress of American Indians** congratulated the increased participation of Native American Nations at the Permanent Forum. The representative voiced their concern at the attacks on Native American Sacred Lands by extractive industries and called upon the United States of America to fully implement UNDRIP.

The **United States of America** recognized the rights of Indigenous Women and supported implementing and promoting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the preservation of their forms of knowledge. Through its Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S.A was currently addressing intergenerational trauma and climate change, in order to take appropriate measures to tackle these issues.

Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations presented a shadow report detailing the judicial situation of Indigenous Peoples in the Ontario region. They mentioned that the Six Nations had become a necessary partner for the Canadian government in caring for their lands and natural resources.

Canada addressed some key points beginning with access to healthcare. The government was now working with Indigenous Peoples to develop solutions and to promulgate potential legislation. On reconciliation, the Canadian government continued to promote the truth by setting up numerous commissions, as well as celebrating the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation yearly on September 30th. The government was also promoting Indigenous Languages, which would also serve in the reconciliation process. Canada further engaged with Indigenous Peoples by including LGBTQ+ Indigenous Peoples in national action plans on climate change, as well as setting up a budget for effective policymaking. Canada further expressed their assurance of their promotion of the rights of Indigenous Women from the grassroots to the international level.

The **Indigenous Environmental Network** voiced its concern at the disproportionate impact of climate change on Indigenous Peoples, calling upon the Special Rapporteur to stop the genocide of Indigenous Peoples and their cultures, as well as stop the removal of Indigenous Children from their families.

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