SUMMARY NOTES ON THE 18TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

22d April – 3rd May 2019, New York City

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 related in that document entail the entirety of the conference. The Interactive dialogue of Friday 26th is related in this document, along with the regional dialogues held during the second week. Monday 29th does not figure in this document as only closed meetings were held the entire day.
The complete list of the current Permanent Forum members is available in Annex – I and the list of abbreviations used in this document is available in Annex – II.

1. Executive Summary

The eighteenth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) chose as a theme: Traditional knowledge: Generation, transmission and protection. Its organization followed last year’s format. The first week was dedicated to plenary sessions, including interactive dialogues, in order to provide more space for the delegates to explain their situations on the ground. The aim for the Permanent Forum members is for them to draw on the delegates’ ideas in order to provide more specific and precise recommendations during the second week, when the Regional Dialogues are held – one dialogue per each indigenous region.

The first week was, in general, well-attended. Fewer participants were present for the second week.

The discussion that raised the most interest was the one about agenda item 5 on “the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages”. The statements pointed out the urgency to protect, promote and revitalize indigenous languages, as they are endangered and therefore rapidly disappearing. The dialogue over agenda item 9 on “traditional knowledge: generation, transmission and protection”, also raised a lot of interest. The interventions outlined the necessity for states to protect indigenous peoples’ traditional knowledge systems as they directly contribute to sustaining biological diversity, food security, conflict resolution and cultural diversity, and are key in fighting the impacts of climate change.

2. Details

Monday, 22 April

- Opening of the session, election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work

At the opening of the session, a traditional indigenous musical act was performed by children of the Onondaga Nation. Then Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director and Officer-in-Charge of UN DESA, invited Mr. Todadaho Sid Hill, Chief of the Onondaga Nation, to deliver a traditional message, which stressed indigenous peoples’ link to natural resources and land as a spiritual matter and the urgent need for recognition of those rights. Mr. Les Malezer and Mr. Elifuraha Laltaika, members of the Permanent Forum, nominated Ms. Anne Nuorgam as the Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues for its
The opening statement was delivered by the President of the United Nations General Assembly, Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés. She first reminded the Forum that we must learn from the traditions and wisdom of indigenous peoples. She expressed her willingness to achieve UNDRIP 2007 and to follow the way indicated by the document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples\(^1\) (2014) in order to recognize indigenous peoples’ rights. She then denounced the situation of indigenous women who are facing multiple forms of discrimination and violence and urged states to work with indigenous peoples, as they are key agents in fighting climate change. Mr. Vladimir Drobnjak, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) stressed the importance of the Permanent Forum in meeting the sustainable goals set in the 2030 Agenda. He informed the Forum that the first SDG summit of Heads of State since the adoption of the SDGs will take place in September with a review of its implementation. He then called upon Member States to further their collaboration with indigenous peoples, notably by recognizing their land rights and tradition knowledge, with the aim of meeting SDGs and participating in voluntary national reviews.

Statements were made by Ms. Terri Henry and Ms. Aisa Mukabenova, members of the Permanent Forum, for the election of the officers. The Forum elected Mr. Pholman Chaudhary, Ms. Lourdes Tiban Guala, Mr. Elifuraha Laltaika and Mr. Dimitri Harakka-Zaitsev as Vice Chairs. Mr. Phoolman Chaudhary and Mr. Jens Dahl, members of the Permanent Forum, elected Mr. Brian Keane as Rapporteur of the eighteenth session by acclamation.

The Chair of the Permanent Forum then made a statement related to this eighteenth session. She thanked Ms. Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine and colleagues of the Permanent Forum. She pointed out that this year’s special theme is an opportunity to share innovations and practices developed in indigenous communities and that their traditional knowledge should be recognized and respected. She mentioned key areas for indigenous peoples and their consequences, such as the right to self-determination, land, languages and education, and protection of disabilities. Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director and Officer-in-Charge of UN DESE, made a statement on behalf of Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. He highlighted this year’s theme, which recognizes the unique value of indigenous peoples’ traditional knowledge and its potential to challenge modern issues by achieving sustainable development, mitigating climate change, managing conservation areas and advancing the development of new medicines and technologies. He underlined the importance of preserving, promoting and revitalizing indigenous languages. He then pointed out the progress made since indigenous peoples, Member States and the UN system have collaborated by quoting the UNDRIP, the 3 mechanisms (the Permanent Forum; EMRIP and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) and the UN Action Plan on the rights of indigenous peoples. Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, warned the Forum about the disappearance of indigenous languages as it is linked to transmitting traditional knowledge. She then mentioned CBD in preserving the ecosystem and community resilience, as well as for the transmission of traditional knowledge. She believes that coherence could be found through the establishment of an international alliance for nature and culture by 2020. The alliance will serve as an inclusive multilevel platform for parties, governments, UN entities, academia, faith-based communities and indigenous peoples to work on issues relevant to nature and culture.

- Discussion on the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages

Ms. Anne Nuorgam, Chair of the Permanent Forum, introduced the organizational aspects. Ms. Aisa Mukabenova, member of the Permanent Forum, introduced the theme of the session by mentioning that the Permanent Forum is the largest event on indigenous languages. She pointed out that the Plan of Action prepared by UNESCO, with cooperation from the UN system and indigenous peoples, is an important document that provides states guidance on setting up and implementing policies to appreciate linguistic rights as part of human rights. This approach presupposes (1) the recognition of languages, including at legislative levels; (2) the implementation of an effective linguistic policy underpinned by financial

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\(^1\) A/RES/69/2, Outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples
resources; (3) the improvement of the observance of linguistic rights in closing the gap between law and practices. She then recommended the declaration of an International Decade of the Languages of Indigenous Peoples. The representative of UNESCO thanked all the states, other partners and indigenous peoples who have supported the declaration of the year. The importance of indigenous languages for sustainable development, peaceful coexistence and reconciliation of the society was underlined. A World Atlas of Languages and a Global Report on World Languages will be produced at the end of the year.

Numerous states took the floor to express their views under this agenda item. New Zealand described how the country has been revitalizing and promoting the Māori language through education, technology and community development initiatives. The European Union reaffirmed its support of the International Year of Indigenous Languages and has promoted bilingualism and multilingualism through its members states. Canada assured its support to preserve indigenous languages and explained that they are working on the Bill C-91 – An Act Respecting Indigenous Languages. South Africa pointed out that in that country, a Bill was passed that will ensure the recognition of the Khoi and San as indigenous communities, and thereby the promotion of their languages. Namibia declared its will to provide education for Namibian indigenous children in their indigenous language. Norway declared its support of the UNESCO initiative and pointed out its project with Sámi Parliaments in Norway, Sweden and Finland, which aims to establish a common Sámi language center called “Sámi Giellagáldu”. Sweden ensures the protection and promotion of Sámi language, especially throughout the activities of the Sámi Language Center. The Russian Federation spoke about how the government has been working on promoting indigenous languages by, for instance, launching an event in the Khanty-Mansiysk autonomous region. Australia pointed out how, despite the decrease of indigenous languages’ speakers, the country is working on revitalizing them through education and technology. Nicaragua underlined that any discrimination because of the language is prohibited in the Nicaraguan Constitution and is working on revitalizing indigenous languages, for example through education. Mexico expressed its wish to establish a National Action Plan in order to protect, preserve and promote indigenous languages in the country. Guatemala repeated the importance of maternal languages for indigenous peoples’ identity and survival and has reiterated its support to preserve and promote them. Estonia pointed out that events promoting indigenous languages have taken place in Estonia and will continue to do so throughout the year. Finland explained how Sámi languages have been supported and promoted in the country with the help of the Sámi community, through education in and outside the Sámi homeland area. The Plurinational State of Bolivia expressed its support to promoting indigenous languages and explained how they have designed a mobile application to help to provide the teaching of the languages. Ecuador underlined the National Development Plan 2017-2020, which was voted on to guarantee and support the intercultural education system. El Salvador reiterated the importance for Salvador to preserve and revitalize the indigenous Nahuat language since 2016. Bangladesh spoke about how the country has been ensuring education and helping its indigenous communities. Chile suggested the implementation of a bilingual educational system for indigenous and non-indigenous children throughout the country.

The following indigenous organizations made statements. The Sámi Parliament of Norway explained the role that technology could have in preserving and promoting indigenous languages. FILAC underlined the necessity for indigenous peoples to use their maternal languages, as they are part of their identity and suggested their promotion by states. AIPP asked states and non-state actors to support indigenous programs that promote and preserve indigenous languages and urged states to take their own initiatives to do the same. Desarrollo Intercultural Chile recommended that the bilingual education from which indigenous children benefit should be expanded to all the children and should include education on indigenous knowledge. The International Indian Treaty Council suggested the creation of a new platform by UNESCO, with the participation of indigenous peoples, in order to preserve indigenous languages and called upon the Permanent Forum to establish an International Decade of the Worlds’ Indigenous Peoples’ Languages. NSWALC recommended that states implement long-term national strategies in order to revitalize, protect and promote indigenous languages and to work with programs which are already carried out by community organizations. The Nomadic Ancestral Community of indigenous peoples of the North (Yukagirs) Keigur underlined the struggle that young indigenous peoples face in learning their traditional languages and the need for them to access bilingual education in their community in order to do so. The Inuit Circumpolar Council emphasized the necessity to access bilingual education in Canada and Arctic states as indigenous languages speakers such as Inuinnaqtun speakers are decreasing, and with this, their
and promote them. **The Khmer Kampuchea Krom Federation** condemned the discrimination that the Khmer community suffers from, as they are prohibited from speaking in their mother tongue and urged Vietnam to promote the Khmer Krom language. **The Cubraiti Inc.** asked states to return indigenous sacred objects to indigenous peoples and to join the International Council of First Nations in its will to access self-sovereignty. **The Union of Indigenous Peoples of Tomsk Region** reported the loss of Selkup language speakers in the region and how there has been almost no measures or financial help made in the struggle against its disappearance. **L’auravetl’an Information and Education Network of Indigenous Peoples (LIENIP),** talked about an international forum which was held in Khanty-Mansiysk to celebrate the Year of Indigenous Languages in Russia. **The Urban Native Youth Association in Canada** asked Member States to implement National Action Plans to ensure that the rights of indigenous nations are recognized and respected and to include these communities. **The Union of BC Indian Chiefs of Canada** recommended that members states implement National Action Plans to revitalize and protect indigenous languages, while respecting their traditional knowledge and providing sustainable funding to indigenous communities. **The Assembly of First Nations** explained how Canada has presented legislation toward the reclamation, revitalization and maintenance of indigenous peoples' languages and hopes that more states will follow this example. **Consejo Regional Indígena del Medio Amazonas** denounced the violence that the Uitoto speakers have suffered from through centuries, which has led to the loss of their maternal language. **The Tribal Link Foundation** reported the discrimination faced by indigenous peoples and asked the Forum: (1) to promote and encourage the protection of traditional knowledge; (2) to urge ECOSOC, states and other UN agencies to provide funding for educational programs and technology. **The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples** underlined the increasing number of endangered languages in Canada and urged the government to provide cultural programs, policies and strategy for indigenous languages' revitalization. **The Indigenous Languages Caucus** denounced the loss of Yuchi speakers over the last century and made a few recommendations such as: (1) teaching children in their mother tongue; (2) offering an award to language advocates to promote their work; (3) establishing an International Decade of Indigenous Languages. **The Nation of Hawaii** suggested that the Permanent Forum conduct a study on how to increase the participation of young indigenous in the fight for sovereignty. **The Mokuola Honua: Global Center for Indigenous Languages**, recommended that an International Decade of Indigenous Languages be declared, with a periodic follow up report to help the revitalization of indigenous languages. A member of the St. Croix Chipewa Indians of Wisconsin asked states to adopt laws to protect indigenous peoples from research by academics and industrial organizations without their consent. **The Indigenous Peoples Forum** warned the UN members states of the disappearance of indigenous languages in Asia Region and urged them to develop programs in order to preserve, practice and promote them.

Other organizations took the floor. **OHCHR, Indigenous Fellowship Program** shared ideas to protect, promote and preserve indigenous languages, and proposed that states find guidance in the recommendations adopted by EMRIP such as the findings of the UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies, UN Special Procedures mandate holders and UPR of the UN HR Council. Finally, its representative encouraged indigenous leaders to participate to the Indigenous Fellowship Program and the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples. **Asia Region, UNESCO,** alerted the UN members states of the disappearance of indigenous languages in the Asia Region and urged them to develop programs in order to preserve, practice and promote them.

**Other experts** from UN mechanisms on the rights of indigenous peoples took the floor. Mr. Alexey Tsykarev, EMRIP expert, on behalf of EMRIP, reiterated its support to the International Year of Indigenous Languages and recommended: (1) the recognition of the past injustices for moving forward and reconciling with linguistic communities; (2) the capacity for indigenous peoples to design education programs that are consistent with their needs; (3) that this year provide opportunities for states and civil society organizations to support initiatives of indigenous linguistic communities; (4) that UN agencies and programs ensure that indigenous languages are fully reflected in projects, policies and field work. **Mr. Jens Dahl, UNPFII expert,** urged UNESCO to take all measures possible to preserve indigenous languages, notably by investigating which policies of states and multinational corporations are the most harmful for indigenous peoples and indigenous languages. Mr. Gervais Nzoa, UNPFII expert, talked about the “Year of Indigenous Languages in Russia” which took part in the Khanty-Mansiysk autonomous region, and highlighted recommendations made by indigenous delegates during this event in order to achieve the objectives of UNDRIP, the outcome
document of the World Conference, 2030 Agenda and the UN Action Plan. Ms Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine, UNPFII expert, pointed out the necessity to preserve, promote and revitalize indigenous languages. She supported Mr. Jens Dahl comment to UNESCO that if these issues are not faced indigenous languages will continue to disappear. Mr. Les Malezer, UNPFII expert, said that a commitment to resources will be needed to be successful in maintaining indigenous languages as first languages for indigenous peoples. He also expressed his skepticism about having a decade on indigenous languages and gave the example of what happened in 1993, as only small progress was made after 10 years.

Tuesday, 23 April

- **Discussion on the theme “Traditional knowledge: generation, transmission and protection”**

Mr. Elifuraha Laltaika made an introductory statement for consideration of this point of the agenda. He mentioned that the Permanent Forum opened on the same day as indigenous peoples were celebrating Earth Day. He explained that indigenous peoples live in interdependence with land, and their traditional knowledge contributes to the protection of it. Furthermore, this knowledge is also an important element that reflects their cultural entity. The Challenge is to find a way to maintain traditional knowledge and to transmit it to future generations, to integrate it into modern society and to protect knowledge holders and their rights. Mr. Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary General of the UN and Chief Economist at DESA, underlined the fact that indigenous peoples are the first people to suffer from the effects of climate change, which includes loss of lands, economic and social marginalization, displacement and dispossession. Therefore, their participation in forums and thus search for solutions against it is primary. Ms. Henrietta Marrie, Associate Professor of Central Queensland University, stated that indigenous peoples’ traditional knowledge is at the center of much of global modern science. Collaboration between scientists and indigenous peoples is happening more and more; however, without protecting their languages or their women the loss of traditional knowledge’s transmission will continue. Mr. Preston Hardison, Policy Analyst Tulalip Tribes Natural Resources Treaty Rights Office, discussed the notion of traditional knowledge according to indigenous peoples, in contrast with western perspective: it refers to a range of elements, from dreams to spiritual experiences, and a whole a way of life. He then talked about the issues in the intellectual property system, since, for him, traditional knowledge should not be maintained in the public domain, without indigenous peoples having control over it anymore. He therefore recommended to the Permanent Forum a fully funded indigenous experts meeting on traditional knowledge. Ms. Saoudata Wallet Aboubakrine, Coordinator for Association Tin Hinan, Burkina Faso, expressed her concern about desertification and soil degradation in the African Region due to climate change. Indigenous peoples have the traditional knowledge to help in this area. However, they need states, institutions and partners to guarantee and facilitate access to resources so that they can conduct activities with attention to marginalized communities and to strengthen and multiply these initiatives.

The following states made statements. The European Union reiterated its commitment to the UNESCO Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expression, to the 2030 Agenda and SDGs and to the implementation of UNDRIP. New Zealand expressed its support for the idea of engaging Māori participation in policy formation in relation to climate change, natural resources, indigenous intellectual property, research, development and innovation. GofIP (on behalf of: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Norway, New Zealand, Spain, Paraguay, Peru and Mexico) reiterated their commitment to work toward the fulfillment of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular the right to protect and promote their cultural heritage and traditional knowledge. Botswana emphasized the necessity for states to ensure that indigenous peoples enjoy the right to traditional knowledge. South Africa condemned the exploitation of indigenous traditional knowledge by non-indigenous actors and has taken measures against it such as protection of these traditions, development of a traditional health practitioners mandate and facilitation of collaboration between indigenous communities and industries. Namibia expressed its will to improve the life of marginalized indigenous communities in the country through education, land resettlement and livelihood support. The Russian Federation explained how efforts have been made to protect traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples in the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug region. Nicaragua suggested the adoption of cultural policies, intercultural bilingual...
education and intercultural health care, including traditional medicine, to improve the lives of indigenous peoples, and the recognition of their judicial system. El Salvador reaffirmed that indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, protect and develop their cultural heritage, their traditional knowledge and their traditional cultural expressions. Chile acknowledged indigenous peoples’ right to conserve and develop their traditions and languages within the legal framework. Bangladesh described how the government is committed to integrating all indigenous peoples into mainstream socio-economic development without discrediting their cultural identity. USA introduced the fact that a legal framework is in place to incorporate traditional knowledge into government decision making. Japan spoke of how the Government and representatives of the Ainu community have collaborated to implement measures to address various issues. Colombia recognized the importance of promoting and guaranteeing the participation of indigenous peoples, as it has been possible to establish suitable mechanisms for the protection of their legacy in the country. Cameroon expressed its will to improve indigenous peoples’ livelihood and preserve their indigenous languages. The Arctic Caucus spoke about the work of the Pikialasorsuaq Commission and on how indigenous knowledge anchored the report and guided the recommendations for an Inuit strategy on “Safeguarding, Monitoring and Managing the Health of the Pikialasorsuaq for Future Generations”. Denmark (on behalf of the Nordic countries: Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Greenland and Denmark) reaffirmed that promoting the rights of indigenous peoples is a long-standing priority for the Nordic Countries and encouraged Member States in supporting, maintaining, controlling and protecting their knowledge.

Numerous indigenous organizations expressed their views under this agenda item. RAIPON denounced the fact that Russian translation is not available on all the Permanent Forum’s events and asked for an improvement of the Forum’s organization. The Ogiek People Development Program in Kenya pointed out that the transmission of traditional knowledge takes place through indigenous languages, thus the promotion, protection and preservation of these languages is key to the survival of their cultural heritage. The Finnish Sámi Youth Organization expressed its worry about reindeer herding and requested that the Finnish government recognizes the Reindeer Husbandry Act, as it is at the center of Sámi people’s food system. The Asia Caucus urged states to take into account the importance of indigenous traditional knowledge, without restricting their practices and instead by promoting and preserving these traditions, especially their food. Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú -CHIRAPAQ denounced the discrimination and violence that indigenous women are victims of and asked for the improvement of health conditions. IKAPALA asked France to acknowledge the status of indigenous peoples in New Caledonia as being the first inhabitants and the protection of their traditional knowledge in the law. The Tribal Link Foundation reported the discrimination faced by indigenous peoples and urged ECOSOC, states and other UN agencies to provide funding for educational programs and technology and asked the Forum to promote and protect traditional knowledge and their holders. Comité de Coordination des Peuples Autochtones d’Afrique – IPACC recommended that states recognize indigenous languages and traditional knowledge and to promote them through the creation of a decade on this topic and through their mention in UNFCC and CBD conventions. Consejo Regional Indígena del Cauca – CRIC asked for the legal and economic recognition of indigenous peoples’ traditional knowledge, as well as of the acknowledgement of the role of indigenous women and the future role of indigenous children as keepers of these traditions. Nunatukavut expressed its appreciation of this year’s theme and expressed the necessity for Inuit people to embrace their traditional knowledge into government decision making. The Inuit Circumpolar Council underlined the fact that the term “traditional” is often misinterpreted and taken to refer to something static and unchanging; this mistake can have many unintended consequences, and so a new definition was proposed. The Tribal Link Foundation denounced the forced assimilation practices which continue to undermine indigenous peoples’ culture, and the extractive industries, which have been damaging indigenous lands without any form of reparation. The Taghrma association denounced the loss of traditional knowledge in the Amazigh community in Morocco due to the policy of marginalization and impoverishment set up by the Moroccan government. The Sámi Parliament of Sweden encouraged UN bodies such as the Convention on Biodiversity and WIPO IGC to collaborate with indigenous peoples in order to advance the recognition, preservation and promotion of their traditional knowledge. The Métis National Council reported the destruction of indigenous lands by industries, since for indigenous peoples their traditional knowledge is linked to these territories. Consejo de Pueblos Originarios Náhuat Pipil de Nahuizalco recommended that ECOSOC ensures education for indigenous peoples; ensures that states investigate current and historic genocide by creating commissions.
of trust; and asked that the Permanent Forum establish protection of life, territories and customs by producing policies. The United Confederation of Taino People – UCTP suggested that a mechanism be established to measure the progress of the implementation of the Declaration by states and other UN agencies also compelled to implement it. Le Grand Conseil Coutumier des Peuples Amérindiens et Bushinenge blamed the lack of legal protection for their traditional knowledge and described their struggle to fight misappropriation and abusive use of their traditions. The Nation of Hawaii suggested that the Permanent Forum conduct a study on connectivity and how it can be used to help indigenous peoples address the challenges they are facing. The Urban Native Youth Association in Canada recommended that states engage with indigenous peoples to develop, fund and implement National Action Plans to address the displacement that they suffered from, and to provide reparations and resources to these communities. The International Indian Treaty Council requested that the Permanent Forum establish a Facilitative Working Group to ensure that (1) their rights to Free Prior and Informed Consent, cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and life ways are upheld; (2) that a permanent position at the WIPO IGC be created; (3) and that UNESCO advances a new mechanism for international repatriation of sacred items and human remains. The National Congress of American Indians called for WIPO IGC to increase funding to allow more indigenous participants to attend sessions. The Indigenous Peoples’ International Center for Policy Research and Education urged WIPO: (1) to accelerate negotiations on a legally-binding international instrument that protects traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions; (2) states to provide funding for indigenous participants; and, (3) to support the creation of an indigenous expert workshop preceding the June session, jointly with the Permanent Forum. The Assembly of First Nations proposed a decade consecrated to indigenous languages and suggested that UNESCO develop a platform to ensure indigenous peoples’ activities such as the one of UNFCCC. The New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council suggested that states establish legal frameworks to protect indigenous traditional knowledge, based on free, prior and informed consent, and to embed the principles of indigenous data sovereignty within national strategies, policies and practices. A representative of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People denounced the destruction of a Crimean Tatar monument, which was included in the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List in 2003, by the Russian Federation. YATAMA asked for the application of a policy of effective legal security and legal protection of their territories, and the promotion of an Action Plan in collaboration with indigenous organizations to revitalize their traditional knowledge. APIWTXA Associação Ashaninka do Rio Amônia urged ECOSOC and other UN agencies such as the OHCHR, WHO, WIPO and UNESCO to adopt an integrative and collaborative approach toward the recognition of traditional medicinal practices of Amazonian Indigenous peoples. CONAMI Brazil denounced the violation that their lands are suffering from and the endangerment of their traditional knowledge that results from it. The Chittagong Hill Tracts Citizen Committee pointed out the loss of Chakma language, because of their integration in the larger society and encouraged the revitalization and preservation of their indigenous language. The Global Caucus suggested that the Special Rapporteur makes a field trip, which would reinforce the impact of recommendations and urged states to respect ILO Convention n°169, without which indigenous peoples are in danger. UNIPROBA denounced the loss of traditional knowledge in the Batwa community due to marginalization and discrimination and encouraged research on and promotion of their traditions. Tonatierra requested that the Mexican State stop promoting the destruction and dispossession of their territory and assets, for them to protect and promote their traditional knowledge. Lof Rewe Cayulfe urged Chile to respect ILO Convention n°169, as their territories are being violated by national and transnational projects and private initiatives.

Other organizations took the floor. UNICEF reiterated its will to focus its attention on supporting increased access for youth and children to essential services in all areas that promote their well-being and rights, including the access to education in their mother tongue. WIPO reaffirmed the importance of traditional knowledge for indigenous peoples and repeated the work that they have been doing to protect their intellectual property. FILAC reminded states that they have the responsibility to take necessary actions to implement indigenous peoples’ rights to traditional knowledge as outlined in UNDRIP and ILO Convention n°169. The World Bank shared with the Forum its support of indigenous peoples and their traditional knowledge by providing funding, including the requirements for free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in its projects and by recognizing, respecting and preserving their cultural knowledge. ILO called for states to better understand the role of indigenous peoples, their knowledge systems and their skills, since they could be a key tool against climate change. UNESCO recognized that Agenda 2030 will not
be achieved if indigenous cultures, languages and knowledge systems are not sustained and promoted. The representative also talked about its program “LINKS”.

Other experts members of the Permanent Forum expressed their views on this item. Mr. Malezer encouraged the discussion to focus on international organizations and CBD, since this is where the international law is currently being shaped and is trying to balance traditional knowledge against other interests such as intellectual property law and the western view of property. He also encouraged states to provide funding for indigenous participants who want to attend WIPO’s sessions. Ms. Terry Henry suggested that the Forum reconsider the processes for registering tribal leaders who do not have NGO’s behind them. She then gave the floor to Mr. Brown from the Navajo Nation who reiterated Ms. Henry’s comment. Mr. Dimitri Harraka-Zaitcev shared the example of a group of local activists in Estonia and Latvia to show that land can only be preserved from destruction and erosion through the traditional meaning of traditional knowledge. Ms. Lourdes Tibán Guala called on the Permanent Forum to accept the Monday session’s requests and asked that all states honor the resolutions at the end of the Forum. Mr. Jens Dahl stressed that research is done better by indigenous peoples themselves rather than scholars and gave his support to the creation of indigenous research institutions. Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea expressed her concern regarding the low level of implementation or recommendations that specifically mention the knowledge of indigenous women. She then urged states to pay attention to the economic activity of indigenous women in consultation with them, by bearing in mind their traditional knowledge in order to improve their development and situation and to promote their knowledge. She then underlined the challenges that indigenous peoples are facing, such as territorial expansion of various industries, lack of educational opportunities and impacts of climate change.

- Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues

Mr. Gervais Nzoa, member of the Permanent Forum, presented the case that the work and methodology of the Permanent Forum be updated as intended, based upon the ECOSOC resolution 2000/22, in which it was planned that the modus operandi of the Permanent Forum be reviewed after 5 years of operations to strengthen the work and the outcomes; however after 5 years (in 2007), all of the attention was drawn to UNDRIP. Mr. Luis Alfonso de Alba, Special Envoy for the 2019 Climate Summit, described how indigenous peoples could participate in two areas: (1) nature-based solutions, as traditional knowledge could be used here and give them an opportunity to showcase the way they have addressed these challenges; (2) public mobilization: since they are not responsible for climate change, those who have a major role should take responsibility and move forward with an agenda that will allow indigenous peoples to move into sustainable development. Mr. Jens Dahl spoke on autonomy and governance, which was also the main theme of an international seminar held in Mexico City in March 2019, whose objectives were to share and analyze the experiences of IP from different regions in relation to autonomy and self-government. A report will soon be available.

A few states took the floor. Guatemala explained that racism, discrimination and inequality in the country have been studied in order to have and present scientific data on indigenous peoples’ issues and suggested that the Permanent Forum do the same in other countries. Mexico shared the concern of various international bodies on the vulnerability of migrants throughout many regions of the world, particularly indigenous peoples, who, under the argument of protecting security, have their most fundamental human rights violated. Bolivia stressed the adoption of the outcome document of the World Conference of indigenous peoples.

The following indigenous organizations made statements. Desarrollo Intercultural Chile expressed their concern for the future of indigenous peoples in Chile and recommended the recognition and valorization of community work and the re-evaluation of the role of women as the central members of this community work. The American Indian Movement denounced the forced sterilization that thousands of indigenous women in the United States have suffered from, and its tragic consequences. Te Runanga o Aotearoa, NZNO pointed out the difficulty for the Māori community to access good healthcare services, asked the New Zealand government to improve the working conditions of indigenous peoples, and, finally, to
implicate their traditional knowledge in the health system in order to facilitate the access for them. A group of indigenous and non-indigenous organizations including: IWGIA, AIPP, IMPACT - Kenya and Gobierno Territorial Autónomo de la Nación Wampi asked the Permanent Forum and the UN Agencies to take a more active role and closely monitor the implementation of the international instruments that recognize the right to autonomy and self-government of indigenous peoples. The Nation of Hawaii suggested that the Permanent Forum conduct a study on how to increase the participation of youth in the fight for sovereignty. RAIPON reported the lack of Russian translation during the Permanent Forum’s events, notably during the Regional Dialogue on Arctic Region, and felt that it jeopardizes the principle of respect for indigenous peoples.

Statements were also made by other organizations. A representative of the UNESCO Steering Committee asked the UN and Member States: (1) to ensure measures in order to help indigenous peoples with the issues they are facing; (2) to support UNESCO during the 2019 International Year for Indigenous Languages by preserving and promoting them; and (3) to implement and develop National Action Plans. UN Women encouraged Member States and other stakeholders to support the participation of indigenous women on Beijing+25 (2020) and to ensure that their voices are reflected in national reports.

Mr. Les Malezer, member of the Permanent Forum, expressed its concern for the Pacific region as indigenous peoples are directly affected by climate change effects. He then stressed Mr. Jens Dahl comment on the engagement of indigenous peoples in the process of fighting it.

Mr. Alec Baldwin, American actor, explained his support for indigenous peoples and the need to empower them as the keepers of biodiversity.

Wednesday, 24 April

- **Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

Mr. Les Malezer made an introductory statement for consideration of this point of the agenda. He mentioned 4 mechanisms that have an important role in the implementation of human rights for indigenous peoples: UNPFII, EMRIP, the Special Rapporteur and the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples. He also expressed his concern that UNDRIP, the document of the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention n°169 have not really been well implemented. He then urged states to strengthen the Permanent Forum’s work and to find the will to protect indigenous peoples’ rights. Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, provided an update of her work since her report last year on 4 interrelated areas of work: the preparation of thematic reports, the conduct of country visits, the response to cases of alleged human rights violations, and technical assistance and promotion of best practices. Her next report to the Human Rights Council will focus on indigenous peoples’ justice systems, as it is an essential aspect of their right to self-determination. She concluded by speaking of the International Year of Indigenous Languages and reminded the Forum about the importance of mother tongues as they are part of traditional knowledge, and the only way to ensure they are protected and transmitted is to ensure the survival and well-being of indigenous peoples. This requires the full implementation of their human rights. Ms. Erika Yamada, Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, recalled the work of EMRIP, particularly the adoption of 2 reports: a study on free prior and informed consent based on human rights and the annual report of the mechanism. She also informed the Forum that the next session of EMRIP will take place in Geneva in July. It will include a discussion on indigenous women in power who have recently been or are current members of parliaments and a draft of the semantic study on the rights of indigenous peoples, in the context of borders, migration and displacement. Dr. Claire Charters, Chair of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, reminded the Forum that since 1985 more than 2300 beneficiaries from over 90 countries have participated in UN conferences with the support of the Voluntary Fund. For 2019, the Fund has tripled its grantees and a new fellowship has been implemented for senior indigenous peoples. The fund also regularly provides capacity building training for indigenous peoples to increase the effectiveness of participation in New York and Geneva and is developing comprehensive capacity building materials including e-tools and web-based
materials. Finally, she asked states to increase their collaboration with the Fund in order to ensure that indigenous peoples can participate effectively at the UN. Mr. Andrew Gilmour, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, insisted on the necessity of strengthening the participation of indigenous peoples in the 2030 Agenda. He also denounced the unacceptable increasing number of human rights violations on indigenous peoples especially in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Philippines. The threat came and is still coming from states and non-state actors such as private companies and the media. He asked that these cases be reported to his office through this email address: reprisals@ohchr.org.

Ms. Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine, member of the Permanent Forum, continued to speak on the same topic as Mr. Andrew Gilmour and asked what could be done to ensure that there are no reprisals against indigenous human rights defenders. She stressed the need for progress on this issue.

Few states expressed their views under this agenda item. Spain reiterated its support of the work of the Special Rapporteur and EMRIP and will continue to participate in the Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum and to contribute to the Voluntary Fund. Denmark (on behalf of the Nordic countries: Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Greenland and Denmark) reaffirmed their support to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples and pointed out the discrimination that indigenous human rights defenders continue to suffer from. Guatemala thanked the Special Rapporteur for her visit and recommendations and will submit its UPR review report to the UN. Chile expressed its will to respect and promote the development of the nine indigenous communities in the country in accordance with ILO Convention n°169 and UNDRIP. Brazil affirmed that measures were taken against attacks on indigenous peoples in the country. Ecuador described how a dialogue with indigenous peoples and the government has resulted in the ratification of 18 conventions that protect their human rights. The European Union repeated its support of the Special Rapporteur’s work and stated that €5 million were granted in 2018 to help human rights defenders. Botswana welcomed the visit of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues in August 2018, who had the opportunity to consult with indigenous communities in the country and to note the improvements that were made. Mexico explained how an institute for indigenous peoples has been created and is developing a document on the right to free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples for its implementation, within the framework of the Federal Public Administration. The Russian Federation declared that, on legislative levels, all conditions for the proper functioning of civil society institutions, including dealing with human rights activities, have been ensured. New Zealand expressed its commitment to upholding the rights of Māori people and its will to continue its collaboration with them. The Plurinational state of Bolivia acknowledged that ILO Convention n°169 and UNDRIP are an integral part of their legislation and explained the need to strengthen the dialogue between traditional knowledge and modern values on an equal basis for the preservation of cultural heritage and biodiversity. Ukraine guaranteed the protection of Crimean Tatar people within the Ukrainian state and recognized the executive body of Crimean Tatar people as the competent authority of the Crimean Tatars but denounced the actions of the Russian Federation. Indonesia declined the accusations made against the government, especially on the issue of West Papua.

Indigenous organizations also took the floor. A representative of an indigenous organization in Canada expressed its concerns on human rights’ violations toward indigenous peoples, notably by pipeline companies. The Sámi Youth Organization questioned the chair of EMRIP on how the new mechanism will secure and deliver justice to future generations. Chief Wilton Littlechild, from the Cree Nation thanked the Special Rapporteur for her work and requested the Permanent Forum to call on states to: (1) create a high level event in December to close with a substantive outcome document which would leave a legacy for the year; (2) implement an international decade on indigenous languages with a focus on reclamation and revitalization, for example by developing a platform; (3) consider domestic legislation for revitalization and reclamation of indigenous languages and (4) meet the duty of redress by providing adequate and sustained support to enable delivery of trauma-informed language. The Sámi Council denounced the situation of a reindeer farm's lands which have been diverted as a hunting ground without the approval of the indigenous peoples working there. FiMi made suggestions to the Permanent Forum in view of the 2030 Agenda which are that: (1) states legislate and implement public policies with the full and effective participation of indigenous women and indigenous peoples; (2) the General Assembly promotes mechanisms which guarantee the compliance of states with the recommendations; (3) the CEDAW examines and generates recommendations on issues that indigenous women are facing; (4) states implement recommendations in
reference to free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples. **NSWALC** thanked the Special Rapporteur for her visit, but denounced some issues, which are still happening in Australia, such as water poisoning. **Tonatierra** expressed gratitude to the Special Rapporteur’s visit to Mexico and questioned when the country would be free of any form of colonization. The **Indigenous Peoples’ Organization from Cameroon** suggested the mechanisms to be more emphasized in the African Region. **RAIPON** expressed its concern with the issue of protected areas as they now often have to pay to access these territories. A **group of indigenous and non-indigenous organizations including: AIPP, IWGIA, Asia Indigenous Peoples Caucus** requested the recognition and promotion of forest and territorial conservation practices by indigenous peoples in Asia with their full and effective participation, in order to meet Paris Agreement on climate change, Strategy Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and 2030 Agenda. **Caucus Global de Jóvenes Indígenas** recommended that states, UN agencies, NGO’s and the private sector fully support indigenous peoples at all levels. The **Congress of Aboriginal Peoples** sought to ensure that all indigenous peoples of Canada have equal access to programs and services, and that their indigenous and treaty rights are given equal protection regardless of residence or Indian Act status. **Articulación de Mujeres Indígenas de Paraguay** denounced the fact that indigenous peoples are being criminalized for fighting for their lands because of the presence of agribusinesses. The **International Council for the Indigenous Peoples of Chittagong Hill Tracts** found it encouraging that educational programs using 5 indigenous languages are currently being created for indigenous peoples in public schools; however, adequate resources have not yet been developed and the impact is often limited due to resource constraints. The **Haudenosaunee Confederacy Council** expressed gratitude to the Special Rapporteur for her years of service and asked her to monitor the development of Canada’s legislative framework proposal, which has drawn strong reactions from indigenous communities. **MADRE** recommended that states promote better practices and innovations under the Just Transition model, in order to uphold indigenous rights, sovereignty and assertion of self-determination over their ancestral lands and their resources. The **African Caucus** urged African states to (1) recognize the diversity of indigenous peoples among African populations and in doing so to consider the ratification of ILO Convention n°169 and implementation of UNDRIP; (2) to respect their constitutions and adhere to the UN 2030 Agenda of not leaving anyone behind and urged the Special Rapporteur to consider the cases of human rights violations which are happening in Africa. The **Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs – UBCIC** explicits its concern about the ongoing trend in Canada that corporations’ interests in natural resources extraction are superseding indigenous peoples’ interests. The **Organisation Tamaynut** urged the UN to pay attention to the hostile situation happening against Amazigh people and asked the Moroccan government to respect its own Constitution. The **Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations** requested Canada to bring their children back into the community in order to end the trauma that many indigenous persons have suffered from. **Federación de Comunidades Nativas de Ucayali y Afluentes FECONAU del pueblo Shipibo – Konibo de la Amazonia peruana** denounced the violence that they are suffering from due to palm oil companies and asked for the respect of their territorial rights and their human rights. The **Stichting Forest Peoples Programme** urged states, companies and banks to respect their constitutional right to the land and their rights to self-determination. A **member of the Miskita community of Nicaragua** reported the violence that indigenous peoples are victims of in the country and asked for justice and the support of the Permanent Forum. The **Sámi Parliament in Finland** expressed their satisfaction with the country visit of EMRIP members in Finland in 2018. Nevertheless, they express their regret toward the negotiations of the Sámi Parliament Act between the Finnish government and the Sámi Parliament, as they were not successful. The **International Indian Treaty Council** requested the liberation of Leonard Peltier from the federal prison he has been detained in since 1976. The **International Native Traditional Interchange** reported the situation for indigenous peoples in Chile, notably due to the oppression by the military of the Mapuche people. The **Nation of Hawaii** expressed its support of all the recommendations and interventions that have been made by the International Indian Treaty Council. The **Native Youth Alliance** encouraged indigenous peoples to continue to struggle and not give up. The **Border Center for Support and Consulting** denounced the violations against the Nubian community in Egypt. The **Pacific Disability Forum** gave a follow-up on the recommendations stated in the 15th session outcome document and suggested: (1) that a study be conducted on people with disabilities with a focus on challenges faced; (2) that a qualitative study on persons with disabilities be conducted in the 7 regions of the world; (3) that the states implement national laws that are in line with UNDRIP; (4) that states implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur. The **Organisasi Pribumi Papua Barat – OPPB** reported the unfinished colonization of West Papua. The **Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People** denounced
the genocide perpetrated by the Russian Federation on Crimean Tatar People. **Coordinación de la Organización Indígena de la Amazonia Brasileña – COIAB** reported the issues that indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation are facing because of the government. **The Amazon Conservation Team** demanded the respect of their indigenous peoples’ practices. **IMAGE** denounced forced marriage that indigenous Maasai girls are enduring at a young age and asked UN agencies to help them.

**Other organizations** took the floor. **FILAC** suggested stronger monitoring of the conclusions and recommendations that arise from the report of the Special Rapporteur and of the documents prepared by the Expert Mechanism. **The University of Technology Sydney** urged states to act against the discriminations faced by indigenous peoples by funding organizations which support and empower them at a health and judicial level. **ILO** stressed that **ILO Convention n°169** is a unique framework to promote indigenous peoples’ rights as part of, for example, sustainable development, dealing with autonomy, guaranteeing access to decent work while contributing to building peace and justice.

Several **experts** reacted to the discussions that took place. **Ms. Lourdes Tibán Guala** talked about Ecuador as the new government is trying to rehabilitate the bilingual system. She also expressed her appreciation of the report of the Special Rapporteur, notably when she mentioned indigenous peoples’ justice system. **Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea** asked the Special Rapporteur if measures have been taken to protect indigenous women, as their mortality numbers continue to increase. **Mr. Jens Dahl** asked a question of the Special Rapporteur and the Chair of EMRIP on whether the Brazilian president’s policy will have a large effect on indigenous peoples in Brazil and if there is anything the mechanism can do to prevent further attacks on people in voluntary isolation. **Mr. Phoolman Chaudhary** explained that Nepal is the only Asian country to ratify Convention n°169, but after 10 years, the government has not adopted a National Action Plan. He therefore asked the Special Rapporteur for her advice. **Ms. Kristen Carpenter, EMRIP member**, asked the Permanent Forum to: (1) consider EMRIPS’s study on borders, migration and displacement; (2) ensure that **UNDRIP** is fully observed by the International Organization for Migration and the implementation of UN Global Compact for Migration; (3) call on states to protect indigenous migrants, especially women and children; and (4) call on states and the World Bank to consider EMRIP’s study on FPIC.

**The panelists** closed the session. **Ms. Erika Yamada** thanked New Zealand, Mexico and Finland, who expressed real trust in the mechanism and said they have been the leading countries in implementing the EMRIP mandate. She added that EMRIP is trying to improve how to balance regional activities; this is why an expert seminar will be held in South Africa. **Dr. Claire Charters** encouraged states to provide funding for the Voluntary Fund, as they received 700 applications but could only fund roughly 100 of them. **Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz** underlined that she can only visit a country on the invitation from the government. She also thanked states which mentioned the usefulness of her visit. She responded to Mr Jens Dahl and indigenous representatives from Brazil, that evangelical churches and the expansion of agribusinesses are the two main issues for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation. She answered Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea’s question of how violence against women is being coordinated by saying that all the rapporteurs will meet to discuss this issue, and that she personally coordinates with Treaty Bodies. She answered NSWALC about the poisoning of water that states must respect the recommendations of the Paris Agreement. She finally thanked the Nordic countries for the support they have provided to the mandate as well as to EMRIP.

### Thursday, 25 April

- **Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum**

**Ms. Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine** made an introductory statement on the theme. She presented her study on the high prevalence of tuberculosis among indigenous communities. She stressed that treatment must be adapted to their specific contexts and take into consideration their traditional knowledge. She also highlighted the factors that explain why there is such a high level of tuberculosis. These are: socio-economic factors, lack of resources, lack of indigenous health care professionals, malnutrition, crowded conditions and, especially, insecurity. **The representative of the World Health Organization – WHO** followed Ms. Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine’s statement. She added that the eradication of tuberculosis by 2030 is a target under SDG 3. The rates of tuberculosis could be driven down by the improvement of data collection,
as it would allow faster analysis and better understanding. She then explained that the organization is working in a range of countries with many partners to help support National Strategic Plans. Mr. Brian Keane gave updates on the implementation of recommendations from the 17th session of the Permanent Forum. He pointed out that most of the recommendations made by the Permanent Forum have not been adequately implemented. Nevertheless, he mentioned that the inclusion of indigenous peoples’ rights in major global networks such as the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement or the Commission of the Status of Women, has enabled the improvement of their rights at the policy level.

States took part in the interactive dialogue. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela described how many of the efforts which have been taken to protect the rights of indigenous peoples are being hindered by measures by the United States. Mexico declared that UNDRIP was enriched by the outcome of the Permanent Forum’s sessions and is convinced that the recommendations of the Forum support the implementation of SDGs. The Russian Federation underlined that indigenous peoples have legislative protection and the rights to free use of their lands and resources. Guatemala urged the Permanent Forum to ensure that events such as the International Year of Indigenous Languages is only the beginning of many actions, so that the implementation of UNDRIP will be ensured. Plurinational State of Bolivia suggested that the Permanent Forum: (1) underscore the major importance of safeguarding traditional knowledge and create measures to sustain it; (2) foster scientific dialogue on indigenous and scientific knowledge; (3) urge Member States to recognize the significant contribution that indigenous peoples make to sustainable development to achieve fair balance between economic, social and environmental needs. El Salvador reiterated its commitment to eradicate social discrimination for everyone, including indigenous peoples.

The representatives of the following indigenous organizations also participated. The International Indian Treaty Council (on behalf of the Indigenous Youth Caucus) brought to light a key area, that is, the alarming rates of suicide among indigenous youth in remote areas, especially the two-spirit people and LGBTQ, and that, in relation with the first one, indigenous peoples must have access to appropriate health services as a fundamental right. The Assembly of First Nations and the National Indian Brotherhood called upon Canada to create a truly neutral resolution tribunal to resolve indigenous peoples land right issues. The Assyrian Aid Society denounced the fact that Daesh stole the territories of Assyrian People in Iraq. Consejo de Pueblos Originarios Nahuat Pipil de Nahuizalco denounced the destruction of indigenous peoples’ lands in Salvador. FAIRA explained how the most comprehensive consultation processes and right to FPIC culminated in “the Uluru Statement from the Heart”, which called for a First Nations’ voice in parliament and said that mechanisms related to indigenous peoples must be designed and led by them. RAIPON expressed its displeasure on Sámi people living in Murmansk Oblast, as they represent 0.2 % of the population but own 72% of the territory where they carry out reindeer herding, even though by law no national parks can be established on these lands. They resent this, since they consider it favoritism. Pakhtamawikan proposed restoring a way of life in harmony with nature. The Indigenous Women’s Network addressed the war in Rakhine state in Myanmar, which is one of the worst humanitarian crises, and urged UN agencies to step forward.

Statements were also made by other organizations. UNITAR said that the organization provides training in conflict analysis, transformation and reconciliation. It focuses on UN and regional human right mechanisms to contribute to the realization of UNDRIP. The participation of indigenous women is sought, since they constitute over 40 percent of the alumni. FILAC explained how the organization was granted a status of permanent observer in the work of the General Assembly. UNAIDS reported that indigenous peoples’ health is worse than non-indigenous peoples’ health. They are affected by a range of health issues including HIV/AIDS. The agency and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in consultation with the international leaders of indigenous HIV/AIDS community leaders, have developed an approach to fast track the rights of indigenous peoples to access integrative HIV/AIDS services as part of National AIDS Program.

Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea, member of the Permanent Forum, made a statement. She reported the enormous quantity of recommendations compared to the scarcity of information regarding progress made in their implementation by states. This lack of information is due to scarce knowledge about the mechanisms of the Permanent Forum and the lack of synergies with international mechanisms. Indigenous organizations are also facing linguistic barriers that hinder their access to the Forum’s work. She therefore proposed an
information tool that is being developed by Chirapaq in Peru, which makes possible to easily identify previous recommendation of the Permanent Forum in relation to 70 key issues.

- **Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

A few states took the floor under this agenda item. **Norway on behalf of Nordic Countries: Denmark, Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Sweden** recognized the right to self-determination, autonomy and self-government of indigenous peoples and condemned all forms of violence against indigenous peoples, especially indigenous women. **Estonia** underlined that indigenous peoples are the main victims of climate change consequences, and this will be discussed during the 8th session of the Finno-Ugric World Congress. **Peru** stated that the government has signed and ratified ILO Convention n°169 and has accepted UNDRIP, in the desire to improve indigenous peoples’ rights. **South Africa** explained how various programs and initiatives have been taken to improve the livelihood and socio-economic conditions of the Khoi and San communities. **The Russian Federation** spoke about whaling and indigenous peoples, as it is linked to their socio-economic health, food, spirituality and culture. **Guatemala** reaffirmed its will to protect indigenous peoples, especially women and consequently their traditional knowledge, by insisting on education, health and human rights. **Australia** recognized the necessity of empowering indigenous peoples with economic opportunities both in business and employment and supporting already active indigenous businesses. **Mexico** reiterated its desire to ensure that indigenous peoples participate in the bodies that produce public policies. **Denmark** expressed its concern for the situation of indigenous peoples in Chittagong Hill Tracts where implementation of a peace accord is not progressing satisfactorily. **Nicaragua** repeated its determination to strengthen traditional forms of self-government and human rights of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples.

Few indigenous organizations expressed their views under this agenda item because of a lack of time. **FIMI** requested the protection of indigenous women from any form of violence and discrimination. **The Sámi Council** denounced the Norwegian government’s recent decision to allow the establishment of a copper mine, which discharges toxic mining waste into the sea. **The Dene Tha’ First Nation** spoke about its collaboration with the University of Alberta on a project called "Tracking Change", the aim of which is to build capacity for indigenous peoples and local fishing communities, in order to have their own knowledge base on local ecosystems and on fishing. **The National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association** explained that the Australian government has recently signed a partnership agreement that includes the right for indigenous peoples to be actively involved in decisions affecting health issues. **The Union of BC Indian Chiefs** reported that Canada’s approach was not consistent with EMRIP’s study on FPIC. **The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples** urged Canada to recognize and provide equal access to programs and services to indigenous peoples. **RAIPON** shared the development of its own Plan of Action to preserve indigenous languages. **The Finnish Sámi Youth Organization** expressed the difficulty of being a part of LGBT community and an indigenous person, and asked the Sámi Parliaments to commission a person, funded by governments, to take care of LGBT issues. **Chirapaq, Kinal Antzetik, Ryerson University and the National Aboriginal Council of Midwives in Canada** condemned the criminalization of indigenous peoples notably during the exercise of traditional midwifery and asked for the promotion of the multiple ways of training and transmitting traditional knowledge in health.

**The United Nations Population Fund – UNFPA** described how the lack of data on indigenous communities has an impact on preventing discrimination and violence against them. **The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – IUCN** reiterated its desire to work with indigenous peoples to secure their rights as an integral part of a world that values nature.

**Mr. Les Malezer** and **Mr. Jens Dahl**, members of the Permanent Forum, made statements. **Mr. Malezer** thanked Estonia for its statement and its contribution to the Voluntary Fund. He pointed out the positive effect that funding has on indigenous peoples’ ability to attend conferences. He also urged states to themselves deal with issues which are reported to them. **Mr. Dahl** spoke about IUCN and urged UN agencies
to create platforms for indigenous peoples within these agencies. He added that it would be highly appreciated if IUCN creates an indigenous peoples’ platform within and funded by the organization.

Friday, 26 April

- **Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples:**
  - (a) Implementation of national action plans, strategies and other measures
  - (b) Ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations
  - (c) Implementation of the United Nations system-wide action plan on indigenous peoples

Mr. Les Malezer, member of the Permanent Forum, introduced this session by underlining that indigenous peoples are not familiar with the 2030 Agenda. He explained that the document of the World Conference sought to help indigenous peoples to achieve the 2030 Agenda in accordance with UNDRIP. He added that even though several states were able to say they had taken some steps in this direction, no National Action Plans were put in place. He also asked that an Observer Status be granted to indigenous peoples in the General Assembly.

Ms. Jane Morgan, on behalf of the President of the 73rd session of the General Assembly, gave an update on the hearing that took place on Thursday by emphasizing that the participation of indigenous peoples should be improved. She encouraged indigenous women and indigenous peoples with disabilities to raise their issues and concerns. Indigenous peoples should be able to make statements and submit information in writing, for the WIPO and other mechanisms to take good practices into account. She also highlighted the importance of regional consultations.

Mr. Martin Oelz, International Labor Organization, emphasized the fundamental role of languages in transmitting knowledge and information, as they contribute to peace building, inclusion and good governance. He then reminded the audience that the General Assembly held the World Conference in 2014 on indigenous peoples, with the outcome calling on the Secretary-General to produce a plan on how to meet the goals of the UNDRIP. Since its launch in 2015, the plan has helped to mobilize indigenous peoples’ engagement with the Permanent Forum.

States expressed their views. Finland (on behalf of the Nordic countries: Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Greenland and Denmark) pointed out that indigenous peoples should be able to take a part in all human rights conference meetings related to their rights. Australia mentioned that the government has undertaken work to strengthen the Closing the Gap framework by shifting focus to its partnership model. Namibia said that there is no National Action Plan for indigenous peoples yet, but the Declaration has been an exemplary guide in formulating the country’s plan to develop a draft working paper to address indigenous peoples’ issues and concerns. Mexico listed several measures taken in accordance with the outcome document. Guatemala affirmed its will to continue to undertake action to respect the outcome document. Trinidad and Tobago acknowledged that preservation of the indigenous heritage is linked to SDGs, and therefore the government has engaged in initiatives at the national level, including the designation of a day heritage and granting of a national holiday to commemorate indigenous peoples in the country. Argentina expressed its will to support indigenous peoples, by, for example, guaranteeing bilingual education for them. USA reported the restrictions and repression against Tibetan and Uighur areas in and by China. China answered the US’s intervention and opposed it.

Indigenous organizations also took the floor. The Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples in New Zealand reported that the government has invested millions to celebrate the memorial event of the arrival of Captain Cook. Unión Nacional de Traductores Indígenas mentioned the annual national meeting called “Live languages” occurring in Mexico that teaches reading and writing in 70 of the languages represented in the country. The Nation of Hawaii explained how sustainable practical solutions for many global problems are being developed in Hawaii, such as water treatment system, removal of invasive trees etc. Harmony Keepers reported the human rights violations that are occurring to children at US borders. Movimiento Indígena de Nicaragua thanked the Voluntary Fund and Docip for their support and recognized the efforts made by the Nicaraguan government, such as the implementation of a bilingual national educational curriculum to preserve indigenous languages. Aboriginal Rights Coalition Australia spoke about a recent report on Australian government which documented its failure to meet 5 important targets, and therefore
recommended the Permanent Forum to provide an annual report which outlines the development of State Action Plans and their effectiveness.

The representative of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – UNFCCC underlined the importance of indigenous peoples’ traditional knowledge to fight climate change and would like to integrate their holistic views into its platform to facilitate climate action. OHCHR explained how a few activities and programs are being carried out to implement the System-wide Action Plan. FAO spoke about its High Level Expert Seminar on Indigenous Food Systems, which took place in Rome in November and expressed its concerns about the disappearance of indigenous food systems. IFAD expressed gratitude for having been able to invest in 38 countries with the goal of ending poverty and hunger and emphasized its desire to support indigenous peoples.

Members of the Permanent Forum expressed their views on this item. Mr. Elifuraha Laltaika commended the Namibian delegation on its paper and added that it will be one of the strongest documents of the African Region. Mr. Jens Dahl followed IFAD’s intervention’s topic and added that the 6 areas of the System-wide Action Plan urge UN agencies to adopt a platform for indigenous peoples within their bodies, fully funded by them. Mr. Les Malezer emphasized that 30 years have passed since the adoption of ILO Convention n° 169 and only 24 countries have ratified it. He therefore urged Member States to adopt it. Mr. Phoolman Chaudhary showed his appreciation toward ILO’s presentation and underlined that Nepal has not ratified ILO Convention n°169 yet. Ms. Terry Henry drew attention to the crisis on the US border and noted that large numbers of Maya have migrated to the US in recent years and months. Their indigenous identity is not recognized by US officials and they are being labeled as Hispanic; this has led to a gap in provision of language resources and other culturally appropriate services. She then urged UN agencies to act. Mr. Gervais Nzoa expressed his desire to know the percentage of ratification of the ILO Convention n°169 by socio-cultural regions, as it could help the Permanent Forum members in their work.

- **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

An introductory statement was made by Mr. Elifuraha Laltaika, member of the Permanent Forum. He presented a note on indigenous peoples and the 2030 Agenda prepared by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum. It highlights the challenges in the 2030 Agenda within the framework of the General Assembly. He added that a General Assembly resolution on indigenous peoples encourages Member States to consider the rights of indigenous peoples, the elaboration of National Action Plans and Programs as well as International and Regional Programs. He finally urged the Forum to take action against climate change and its impact. Mr Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, explained the meaning of sustainable development as being a holistic approach to society. He then listed non sustainable elements in modern society which are: the world economy, climate change, massive pollution and destruction of habitat. He emphasized the point by denouncing the US government for accelerating the destruction of the earth. He then encouraged organizations to get in touch with him at sachs@columbia.edu in order to mobilize indigenous peoples’ traditional knowledge and their realities to improve their conditions. Ms. Marion Bathélémy, member of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, introduced the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, as this year’s thematic will be on “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, and invited indigenous peoples to take part to the conference. She then spoke about the September SDG summit, as it will be the first for the High Level Political Forum to meet on governments. The aim of this event will be to take stock of where they stand on implementing the 2030 Agenda, and to come up with a declaration and guidance on how to accelerate progress on SDGs. Ms. Joan Carling, winner of the Champion on Earth and indigenous rights activist and environmental defender from the Philippines, talked about the National Voluntary Review as part of the High Level Political Forum, and reported that this year 18 countries with indigenous peoples were included in the report. She also wished to draw attention to the principles upheld in the political declaration of SDGs, as there are still huge gaps in the meaningful participation and implementations of SDGs. She urged Member States to include indigenous peoples in the process and to integrate their traditional knowledge in their goals.
States took the floor. Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic countries: Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Greenland and Denmark) affirmed that implementation of the global goals is an essential priority for them, and therefore attention must be given to indigenous peoples, since they represent 5 percent of the world population, but are 15 percent of the poorest. Mexico stated that implementation of the 2030 Agenda is crucial to indigenous peoples who have a great deal to contribute to it.

Statements were also made by indigenous organizations. Chittagong Hill Tracts said that 2030 Agenda is crucial for indigenous peoples in Bangladesh and recommended that the government takes measures to produce disaggregated data on language, sex and the legal status of land holding. The Eagle Movement Fund asked for help since their languages and resources are being destroyed.

FILAC encouraged National Plans Actions dealing with the implementation of SDGs in Latin America, in collaboration with UN and Member States.

Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea, member of the Permanent Forum, reacted to the panelists’ interventions. She asked Mr. Sachs to call upon a redistribution and to look at the origin of the funds, as they often come from natural resources in indigenous peoples’ territory. She then commented on Ms. Barthelemy’s presentations on the High Level Political Forum and underlined that many countries with indigenous peoples do not receive sufficient information about the 2030 Agenda and their participation in National Actions Plans is limited. She requested that the representative intervenes with states. She finally asked Ms. Carling if a major group is enough for indigenous peoples, as they hardly have any resources for indigenous people to travel. The barrier of information is also restrictive.

The panelists closed the session. Ms. Jeffrey Sachs responded to the question of redistribution by explaining that an effort is being made by many groups to mobilize the resources needed to close the SDGs funding gap, which is about USD 300 billion. Ms. Marion Barthelémy answered the question of indigenous peoples’ participation in Voluntary National Reviews. She explained that their expectations have been transmitted to the states and that global workshops are being held, but this area could be more emphasized. Ms. Joan Carling thanked Ms. Rivera Zea for her comment and said that indigenous peoples need support from different groups to increase their participation. She also underlined the importance of having collaboration with the Permanent Forum, the Special Rapporteur and EMRIP in engaging SDGs.

- **Dialogue with indigenous peoples: collective rights to lands, territories and resources**

The theme of this interactive dialogue was indigenous peoples’ land rights. The aim of this hearing was for Permanent Forum members to hear more recommendations and learn of situations from the indigenous delegates present in the room.

Numerous indigenous organizations took the floor. The representative of the Tsiits gitanee clan from Haida Gwaii in Canada, reiterated the right to sustainable development in land and marine areas for indigenous peoples. The Asian Indigenous Peoples’ Caucus drew attention to the European Social Survey Round 7, as it does not adequately reflect indigenous peoples’ needs. The representative of Chukchi people from Siberia reported how extractive companies have been exploiting their lands. The Association of Indigenous People of Taymyr explained how over-fishing and climate change have an impact on indigenous peoples’ traditional lifestyles. Maya Vision Guatemala drew attention to the situation in Guatemala as transnational corporations and government are taking indigenous peoples’ lands for deadly projects. The Nation of Hawaii requested the Permanent Forum to conduct a study on indigenous peoples’ land management systems such as the Ahupua’a. Semilla Warunkwa in Colombia denounced the threats and unwarranted surveillance on indigenous peoples by security forces and the growing number of disappearance and murder among indigenous peoples. The United Liberation Movement of West Papua reported the unfinished colonization of West Papua. Comunidad Salasaka Centro explained how the government in Ecuador does not acknowledged the realities of indigenous peoples by letting extractive industries to exploit their lands. A representative of the Nubian community in Egypt expressed the difficulty faced by Nubian peoples to protect their traditional knowledge. A representative of the Khanty-Mansiysk region in Russia asked for the protection of their lands in the legislation. A representative of an
indigenous organization from Quebec in Canada requested the acknowledgment of indigenous peoples’ right to self-governance. Consejo de Pueblos Originarios Náhuat Pipil de Nahuizalco denounced the neoliberal model adopted by the new government in Mexico as indigenous peoples’ land and resources are being taken away from them. A representative of an indigenous organization in Russia expressed her regret of the Soviet Union’s time in which indigenous peoples had easily access to lands, since now they must often pay an entrance to access them. Pahtamawikan advocated for the recognition of indigenous peoples’ traditional medicine in healing processes. A representative of an indigenous organization from Tierra del Fuego in Chile denied the intervention of Chile’s delegation about indigenous peoples in the country. RAIPON said that extractive industries are stealing indigenous peoples’ lands, which is forcing them to settle elsewhere. The Seventh Generation Fund requested the Permanent Forum to continue to raise the issue of territorial rights. A representative of an indigenous organization from Salvador urged the government to implement consultation projects before implementing any changes to indigenous peoples’ land, and to include women and youth in the decision-making processes. The Center of Indigenous Peoples of the North decried all statements made by the Russian delegation, as indigenous peoples are victims of numerous human rights violations. The representative of an indigenous organization from the Great Lakes region of the United States said that their loss of traditional knowledge is due the acculturation policy of the government. Consejo Regional Indigena del Medio Amazonas requested the acknowledgment of indigenous peoples’ rights. The Native Council of Prince Edward Island, Canada, denounced the lack of measures taken by governments to protect indigenous peoples. The representative of an indigenous organization from Oaxaca in Mexico recommended that the Permanent Forum visit the region, since indigenous peoples are affected by the presence of extractive industries. The representative of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People stressed the need to develop recommendations to ensure indigenous peoples’ safety. The representative of an indigenous organization in Malaysia explained how the government has developed laws which have downgraded indigenous peoples’ rights. The Fiji Indigenous Peoples Foundation accused the government of taking indigenous peoples’ lands without compensation. The Movement of Human Rights of the Naga People talked about the struggle of indigenous peoples to access their land and resources since India’s independence. The representative of an indigenous organization from the Great Lakes Region in the US reported the abuse, rape and murder of indigenous women that was occurring. The representative of an indigenous organization in Chile denounced a touristic project on indigenous territory, which is being developed without the consensus of indigenous peoples. The representative of an indigenous organization in Colombia urged the government to react to the issues occurring in the Amazon, such as drug trafficking, illegal mining and pollution. The representative of an indigenous organization in USA called on the Permanent Forum and other UN agencies to react to the poisoning of lakes. The Council of First Nations expressed its will to write to Pope Francis to let him know that indigenous peoples have decided to start repatriation of their sacred objects. The representative of an indigenous organization from the Mekong Delta in Vietnam accused the government of having taken no measure for indigenous peoples and for the promotion of their languages. The representative of an indigenous organization from the Caribbean Coast of North America recommended that ECOSOC and the World Bank include indigenous peoples’ representatives on their development committee. The representative of the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin urged the Forum to stand with them against the Back Forty Mine project. The representative of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska explained that there are only 12 fluent speakers of Omaha language left and asked for an increase in the funding of projects, which will help indigenous peoples to learn their mother tongue.

Several experts of the Permanent Forum reacted to the discussions that took place. Mr. Jens Dahl provided the conclusions of the meeting on self-governance that took place in Mexico in March 2019. The conference underlined that autonomy and self-governance are linked to the rights between territories and resources. Ms. Terry Henry thanked all indigenous peoples for their statements and presence. Mr. Gervais Nzoa reiterated that he sympathized with all indigenous peoples present in the room and reassured them that their issues have been well noted. Mr. Jesus Guadalupe Fuentes Blanco affirmed that the Permanent Forum will try to redouble efforts and is already trying to see how answers can be generated. A meeting will be held with Member States.
Tuesday, 30 April

- **Implementation of 6 mandated areas (continued)**

States expressed their views. Brazil affirmed its desire to support indigenous peoples. Nepal repeated its commitment to implement the full realization of indigenous peoples’ rights and in line with ILO Convention n° 169. Philippines repeated that the constitution guarantees and values the rights to indigenous peoples. Cuba recognized the Permanent Forum’s work and reiterated its desire to support indigenous peoples. Colombia condemned any form of violence against indigenous peoples. Paraguay expressed its commitment toward the improvement of indigenous peoples’ rights. The Plurinational State of Bolivia talked about a meeting which will be held during the year in order to draw a plan to attain the 2030 Agenda. Vietnam said that the socio-economic development in indigenous communities will be emphasized. Kenya denounced the violations happening to the Maasai people. China reacted to the Society for Threatened Peoples’ intervention and denied that Uighur people are being mistreated.

The following indigenous organizations made statements. FAIRA pointed out the high suicide rate among indigenous youth. The Sámi Parliament of Finland (on behalf of the Sámi Youth Council) asked for an improvement of the educational system, which includes indigenous peoples. The Sámi Parliament in Sweden (on behalf of the Sámi Parliamentary Council, the Sámi Council and the Sámi Parliament in Sweden) suggested that the Permanent Forum initiate cooperation with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development as it could help to implement indigenous peoples’ rights. The Assyrian Aid Society denounced violations perpetrated against Assyrian People in Iraq. The Indigenous Peoples Survival Foundation explained how an indigenous community in Pakistan has been able to preserve its traditional knowledge in a Muslim country. The Banua Monobo Talantiq Tribal Council said that even though the government of Philippines is making progress to ensure indigenous peoples’ rights, they are still victims of violence and discrimination. The Dene Tha’ First Nation gave the floor to one of its Chiefs, who thanked the members of the organization for their work regarding the “Tracking Change” Project. The Seventh Generation Fund of Indigenous Peoples in New Zealand reported that the government has invested millions to celebrate the memorial event of the arrival of Captain Cook. LIENIP said that the Russian Federation has taken measures to protect endangered indigenous languages. The Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People stressed the occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation, which violates the right of indigenous peoples to self-determination. The Society for Threatened Peoples denounced the violations occurring against Uighur people in China. The representative of an indigenous organization in Canada called for the government to develop a National Action Plan and to take necessary measures to ensure that it is line with UNDRIP.

The United Nations Environment Program took the floor and reiterated its support of indigenous peoples’ traditional knowledge. He also mentioned several initiatives and invited indigenous peoples to collaborate with the agency.

Several members of the Permanent Forum spoke. Mr. Les Malezer thanked Nepal for its statement and pointed out that in future sessions of the Permanent Forum comments related to SDGs will be probably heard. Mr. Jesus Guadalupe Fuentes Blanco supported Mr. Malezer’s intervention. He also invited the indigenous peoples still present to participate into the regional dialogues. Mr. Phoolman Chaudhary congratulated the Nepal delegate for his presentation. Ms. Terry Henry drew attention to the crisis on the US border and wanted to note that large numbers of migrants do not even speak English or Spanish.

- **Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (continued)**

Few states expressed their views on this item. USA answered to China’s previous intervention and emphasized that its accusations were inappropriate. Canada said that the International Year of Indigenous Languages has reminded the government of the importance of indigenous languages and they will be incorporated to the System-wide Action Plan. Germany brought a representative of the Uighur community and repeated the necessity of protecting their rights.
The following indigenous organizations spoke. The Aim West underlined the importance of water for indigenous people and the necessity of protecting it. The Fund for Peace, Justice and Sovereignty suggested New Zealand to establish a ministerial advisory group to support the development of the National Action Plan. The Assyrian Aid Society highlighted the need for Iraqi government to work with indigenous peoples. The representative of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe reported the destruction of indigenous lands. Yamasi People Organization recommended that the Permanent Forum call on ECOSOC and the General Assembly to implement the recommendation brought by EMRIP’s report on reconciliation. CONADIMCHH denounced the violations happening to indigenous peoples in Honduras. ANIPA said that 20 years after the adoption of the UNDRIP in Mexico there is still no law on free, prior and informed consent. COICA addressed the Permanent Forum about the severe violations of human rights that have been taking place against indigenous peoples in Colombia. The Earth Island Institute underlined the sexual violence occurring against indigenous women in Canada. The First International Council of First Nations in Canada encouraged the Permanent Forum to visit indigenous communities. The Indigenous World Association acknowledged the lack of presence of the Secretary General and pointed out that the previous ones attended the Permanent Forum. The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church talked about the positive actions taken by the Episcopal Church such as repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery in 1989.

Members of the Permanent Forum reacted to the discussions that took place. Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea spoke on the same topic as the FAIRA intervention on suicide and recommended that states improve health programs, as well as education, as pointed out by the Sámi Parliament. Ms. Xiaoan Zhang said that there is a big gap between the outcome of the World Conference and the reality on the ground. Mr. Gervais Nzoa listened carefully to indigenous peoples’ statements but said that the Permanent Forum does not conduct country visits. Mr. Jens Dahl urged governments to make sure to involve indigenous peoples when they fulfill articles 14, 15 and 16 of UNDRIP.

- **Regional Dialogues between indigenous peoples and Member States: Africa**

The Regional Dialogue reunited Africa’s indigenous peoples’ representatives, Member States, the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities in African and UN agencies, academic institutions working on the region, funds and programs. They discussed: (1) the work of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights; (2) the national legal actions for the implementation of UNDRIP and co-regional instruments in Africa; (3) the African perspectives on the International Year on Indigenous Languages; (4) indigenous peoples’ collective Rights and coping Strategies for addressing climate change and other development challenges in Africa; (5) the role of traditional systems of conflict resolution in preventing and addressing conflicts and securing lasting peace – including in the Sahel region and in the rest of Africa.

The dialogue on the work of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights recommended that UN agencies, funds and programs support the Working Group of the African Commission. The latter underlined the good practices of countries such as Congo, South Africa and Cameroon, but also urged Kenya to fully implement its decisions, as complaints from indigenous peoples were received.

Some countries were congratulated for their actions toward the implementation of UNDRIP. Among them are Namibia for its White Paper on Indigenous Peoples’ Rights, and Burkina Faso and Mali for their training programs, which increase capacity of indigenous peoples. Nevertheless, other states were criticized by indigenous peoples’ representatives, such as Kenya, Uganda and Morocco, as their indigenous communities are facing land issues due to the presence of extractive companies. The violence against indigenous women was also underlined, as well as massacre of Pastoralists by ISIS in Burkina Faso and Mali.

Everyone agreed on the need for states to protect, promote and revitalize indigenous peoples’ languages, as they are strongly related to their food systems, traditional knowledge and culture transmission.

Indigenous peoples’ representatives stressed that Pastoralists and Nomads are being forced to settle, because of climate change. This has a crucial impact, as all the aspects of indigenous peoples’ life are interdependent: if one element is changed, they are all altered. Ms. Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine tried to
reassure them by adding that UNESCO is implementing a project in 6 countries, which will build the ability of local communities to forecast weather and deal with climate change. They further emphasized the importance of using indigenous traditional systems for conflict resolution in preventing and addressing conflicts and securing lasting peace, which has also been underlined by UN agencies. This point was retaken by experts of the Permanent Forum, which suggested for the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations to work with indigenous peoples.

Wednesday, 1 May

- **Regional Dialogues between indigenous peoples and Member States: Asia**

The Regional Dialogue brought together Asia's indigenous peoples' representatives, Member States, UN agencies, academic institutions working on the region, funds and programs. They talked about: (1) traditional knowledge as the core foundation of indigenous peoples' identities, cultural heritage, civilizations, livelihood and coping strategies for millennia; (2) conflicts over land, which are challenges for indigenous peoples; (3) the inclusion of indigenous peoples within the large development and economic projects and resource extraction, which are being pursued throughout the region.

Asia’s indigenous peoples’ representatives expressed their appreciation to states that took initiatives to protect their indigenous languages by including them in educational systems, as India did, or by producing books in indigenous languages, as Bangladesh did. However, criticism was also expressed, especially against China and Indonesia, as Uighur people and West Papuan people are feeling oppressed by these two governments and therefore not able to express their culture. The two states denied these accusations. In addition, states were recommended that they develop their economy using indigenous languages and provide funding for projects which promote them.

The discussion on land conflict emphasized the challenges for indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples’ representatives denounced the use of their land and territories by multinational industries in India, Nepal and Philippines. Indigenous communities feel that it is a violation of their free, prior and informed consent. They also said that the benefit should return to them since the land belongs to them. Additionally, indigenous people from West Papua and Maluku islands accused the Indonesian government of occupying their islands, which prevents them from exploiting it. Indonesia denied the accusation of West Papua and said that autonomy is being implemented in Maluku Island.

Indigenous peoples’ representatives urged states to include them in the socio-economic development of their countries. In the case of multinational companies, a large percentage of the benefit should go to indigenous peoples, as precious metals are being extracted from their lands. This idea was stressed by the representative of IFAD. He added that states and other stakeholders should apply the principles of free, prior and informed consent, in line with SDG 17, in their discussion with indigenous peoples.

- **Regional Dialogues between indigenous peoples and Member States: Arctic**

The Regional Dialogue brought together Arctic indigenous peoples’ representatives, Member States, UN agencies, academic institutions working on the region, funds and programs. The dialogue was on: (1) relationships between types of autonomy and the opportunity for indigenous peoples in a sustainable way to develop health, housing, and other economic and social programs; (2) securing indigenous peoples territorial rights in conflict with increased pressure from large development projects as a key challenge; (3) climate change and resource management as key challenges for indigenous peoples in the region; (4) promoting and preserving indigenous languages.

What emerged from the discussion is that the challenges to access self-governance are completely different from one country to the other. The representatives of Russian indigenous peoples underlined the difficulty for small number of indigenous peoples to access self-governance. The Russian delegation stressed this idea by saying that the government do not establish autonomy just for the sake of some people but in the interests of everyone and took the example of the Yakutia Republic. In Greenland it is a matter of when do
indigenous peoples want their independence; their challenge is more an economic one since 50 percent of the government budget comes from Denmark. Furthermore, they expressed their concern since all the basic requirements for gaining independence have not been fulfilled. For Sámi People, the Sámi Parliament was established in 1995. It provides a linguistic and cultural autonomy for them in the Sámi lands and represents them in a national and international level. However, there is an emerging call among them to unify its criteria, since the Finnish, Swedish and Norwegian governments define the constitution in their respective country.

Indigenous peoples’ representatives all agreed on the necessity of having territorial rights written into the constitution of their country in order to allow them to freely use their land. They also urged states to strengthen local and regional indigenous peoples’ institutions for managing land, waters and resources. Among them there is the Pikialasorsuaq project of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, which consists in protecting the polynya (open sea surrounded by ice) between Canada and Greenland. The Deatnu (Tana) salmon management project, started by the Sámi People in Finland and which is also happening in aims for a recovery plan and stricter regulations of fishery, and to ensure that fish resources are fairly distributed among the countries.

All indigenous peoples in Arctic said that climate change affects the region. They urged states to stop developing projects which destroy their lands and affect their livelihood, and which also do not comply with the UNDRIP. Among the cases reported there are: the Arctic railway road project, which would cut through Lapland reindeer habitat and the Fosen Vind onshore wind power project, which produces sustainable energy from indigenous lands without sharing it with them.

They all highlighted the need to protect, promote and revitalize their indigenous languages, especially through bilingual education system and teaching material. Sámi people spoke about their language center, which aims to use technology, but they are concern about not being able to access the software if the major technology companies refuse to share their source codes.

Thursday, 2 May

- **Regional Dialogues between indigenous peoples and Member States: Central & South America, and the Caribbean**

The Regional Dialogue brought together indigenous peoples’ representatives from Central & South America, and the Caribbean, Member States, UN agencies, academic institutions working on the region, funds and programs. The discussion was on: (1) the challenges or obstacles to the implementation of UNDRIP; (2) the experiences of the work of indigenous peoples in the regional mechanisms of participation; (3) the possible cooperation and dialogue among Member States, indigenous peoples and the United Nations System and other intergovernmental organizations in the region to promote the dissemination and recognition of UNDRIP.

Indigenous peoples’ representatives underlined the efforts made by states in the region to advance the recognition of their rights. However, they also expressed the necessity of harmonizing laws, policies, and national and regional programs in order to fully implement UNDRIP in the region. The involvement of indigenous young people and women in the processes was mentioned a few times. They also proposed the creation of a position of indigenous special envoy at the UN.

The participants also stressed the necessity of implementing the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted in 2016. A representative of indigenous peoples from French Guiana asked for the adhesion of France to the Organization of American states, without which they cannot address their issues to them.

A few times, they questioned the aim of their participation in the Permanent Forum and their engagement with states during the session, as some of them have the feeling that the situation in their countries is stagnating. For instance, they denounced the ongoing criminalization of indigenous peoples, the
contamination of rivers by extractive companies, the lack of recognition of their languages, the killing of indigenous leaders in Chile and Colombia. They therefore suggested that states strengthen their right to free, prior and informed consent.

- **Regional Dialogues between indigenous peoples and Member States: North America**

The Regional Dialogue brought together North America’s indigenous peoples’ representatives, Member States, UN agencies, academic institutions working on the region, funds and programs. The discussion focused on: (1) the participation of indigenous women and other minorities in the UN system; (2) the dispossession of land and the resource extraction, and the challenges faced by indigenous peoples of North America in preserving and protecting sacred lands and waters, sacred cultural practices and subsistence economies; (3) consultation and participation of indigenous peoples in formulating environmental and land management practices; (4) possible acts of reconciliation to address intergenerational traumas affecting indigenous communities; (5) plans and actions undertaken to promote and protect indigenous languages in the region, including the organization of a regional gathering of indigenous peoples, states, academics and other stakeholders.

Indigenous peoples’ representatives stressed their right to participate in decision making, as stated in UNDRIP, including women and youth indigenous. They also reported the absence of the Secretary-General during the Permanent Forum and requested the creation of a position for an indigenous special representative at the UN. The Canadian, Mexican and US governments reiterated their will to collaborate with indigenous peoples and explained how they have been working with the Group of Friends already. They also welcomed the idea of having an indigenous special representative at the UN.

The Indigenous peoples of North America, who are protecting their sacred lands and waters, are facing numerous challenges. They face continued criminalization for protesting or simply posting videos or pictures on social medias. Health is also an important issue. They are also losing food security, as extractive industries discharge toxic waste in waters, since many indigenous communities live on fishing. The Canadian delegate reacted and said that measures are being taken to resolve these issues, such as development of water systems to make waters clean.

Acculturation measures taken by US and Canadian governments have had and still have a terrible impact on indigenous children. They used to be sent to residential schools and nowadays they are brought to the foster care system. Violence against indigenous women and cases of disappearance were also mentioned. This results in a profound trauma, and in some tragic cases of suicide and murder. Consequently, indigenous peoples’ representatives believe that the healing process requires a return to culture and relationship with the land. States should provide funding for indigenous-led programs that address intergenerational trauma. Furthermore, Canada was encouraged to pass Bill C-262 and to fully adopt UNDRIP, in order to prove its intention to move in the direction of reconciliation.

They all agreed that the International Year of Indigenous Languages should be transformed into a decade. They also underlined that indigenous languages are at the center of indigenous peoples’ identity, which is why action should be taken to promote and preserve them. The use of media, such as radio, was proposed.

- **Regional Dialogues between indigenous peoples and Member States: Pacific**

The Regional Dialogue brought together Pacific’s indigenous peoples’ representatives, Member States, UN agencies, academic institutions working on the region, funds and programs. They talked about: (1) climate change and resource management as key threats for indigenous peoples; (2) the indigenous peoples having an equal voice as states in the governance of this region’s oceans, and in matters of marine biodiversity; (3) indigenous peoples being left behind in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Indigenous peoples’ representatives expressed their concern with rising waters due to climate change, as their islands are threatened to disappear. They also reiterated their right to manage coastal areas. That is why the delegation of Micronesia encouraged the states present in the room to include and collaborate
with indigenous communities and indigenous peoples, so that they might share their traditional knowledge. The representatives of indigenous peoples requested to be included by states in their decisions.

Other issues were raised such as: the destruction of the forest in West Papua, military exercises and over-fishing, which are all allowed by governments. These problems endanger indigenous peoples’ livelihood and food systems. The re-localization of indigenous peoples is becoming a key question, as it is already happening on some islands.

New Zealand and Australia expressed their commitment to achieve the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, in order to improve indigenous peoples’ life. They will also consider their recommendation to engage with them. Indigenous peoples’ representatives also pointed out the lack of health services available to them, and asked governments to invest in those, rather than in events which celebrate the colonial past of the country, as is the case in New Zealand. They also requested that their right to self-determination and self-governance be respected, and some of them declared their support for West Papua.

- **Regional Dialogues between indigenous peoples and Member States: Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia & Transcaucasia**

The Regional Dialogue brought together: indigenous peoples’ representatives from the region, Member States, UN agencies, academic institutions working on the region, funds and programs. The discussion focused on: (1) challenges facing the socio-economic development of indigenous communities, particularly in remote areas; (2) implementation at the regional level of the goal of sustainable development and the use of those resources; (3) measures taken in the region to introduce endangered languages into educational practices and include the learning of those languages in curricula at all levels of educational systems.

The delegate of the Russian Federation underlined the difficulty of establishing health centers, schools for indigenous peoples in remote areas, since it requires a lot of investment. He also added, however, that measures were taken in favor of indigenous peoples, as they have access to these territories. This was denied by indigenous peoples’ representatives of the region. They furthermore requested their right to use, access and manage their lands and resources. They reported cases where they have been denied the right to fish or they must pay rent to use the lands. Therefore, they also urged the government to develop mechanisms for their inclusion in decision-making processes.

The need to integrate indigenous peoples’ traditional knowledge in modern science, in order to reduce environmental issues and achieve SDGs goal, was underlined. Some of them have been working with scientists in order to systematize their knowledge by developing ethnological calendars, for example. The idea of having a platform for exchanging information has also been mentioned.

All indigenous peoples’ representatives in the room expressed their concern about the disappearance of their languages. They acknowledged the importance of preserving them as well as their linguistic environment, by including them in educational systems (bilingual education and teaching material) and by using information technologies in public spheres. The moderator said that a project funded by Estonia, Latvia and Russia was held. The aim was to promote indigenous languages through different activities.

*Friday, 3 May*

- **Closing of the session**

Ms. Anne Nuorgam, Chairperson of the eighteenth session of the Permanent Forum, repeated that the theme of this year session: Traditional knowledge: Generation, transmission and protection, is crucial to indigenous peoples. Their traditional knowledge is however often not acknowledged, as well as their territorial rights, educational systems and resources. She mentioned that more than a thousand people participated in the session. They shared their concerns, successes and good practices. She reported the violence that indigenous women are facing, and asked for the recognition of their key role, specifically in...
order to achieve the 2030 Agenda. She then underlined a broad area of common issues faced by indigenous communities and repeated that efforts are being made to fully implement the UNDRIP. She suggested UN agencies who have not already included indigenous peoples in their agendas to do so. She then urged the Secretary-General to appoint a special envoy in consultation with indigenous peoples. Finally, she announced the theme for the nineteenth session which will focus on peace, justice and strong institutions, as outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 16.

ANNEX I – LIST OF THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE UNPFII

Below is the list of the current Members of the Permanent Forum whose mandate will expire at the end of 2019:

Indigenous experts
Ms. Mariam WALLET ABOUBAKRINE (Africa)
Mr. Elifuraha LALTAIKA (Africa)
Ms. Anne NUORGAM (Arctic)
Ms. Terri HENRY (North America)
Mr. Phoolman CHAUDHARY (Asia)
Mr. Dimitri HARIKKA-ZAITSEV (Russian Federation, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Transcaucasia)
Ms. Lourdes TIBAN GUALA (Central, South America and the Caribbean)
Mr. Les MALEZER (Pacific)

Experts nominated by states
Mr. Gervais NZOA (Cameroon)
Ms Tarcila RIVERA ZEA (Peru)
Ms. Aisa MUKABENOVA (Russian Federation)
Mr. Jesus Guadalupe FUENTES BLANCO (Mexico)
Mr. Jens DAHL (Denmark)
Mr. Brian KEANE (United States of America)
Ms. Zhang Xiaoan (China)

ANNEX II – LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIPP Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
ANIPA Asamblea Nacional Indígena Plural Por La Autonomía
CBD Convention on the Biological Diversity
CHIRAPAQ Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú
COICA Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica
CONADIMCHH Coordinadora Nacional Ancestral de Derechos Indígenas Maya Ch’orti’ de Honduras
ECOSOC Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
EMRIP Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAIRA Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action
FILAC Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean
FIMI Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indígenas
FPIC Free Prior Informed Consent
GoFIP Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples
IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development
IKAPALA Institut Kanak des Plantes, de l’Artisanat et des Langues Autochtones
ILO International Labor Organization
IPACC Indigenous People of Africa Co-Coordinating Committee
IUCN International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
IWGIA International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs
NSWALC New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council
OHCHR Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights
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This document has been redacted by Priscilla Saillen, if you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact her priscilla.saillen@docip.org