

SUMMARY NOTES ON THE 16TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

24th April – 5th May 2017, New York City

The summary notes are reports of the most important UN meetings on indigenous rights and are issued twice a year. They are only available in an electronic version and sent by email.



Note on those Summary Notes:

This summary is based on the notes taken during the conference and the statements collected by Docip services.

This document uses abbreviations, which index is available in the Annex II.

Only the plenaries sessions that dealt with the agenda items of the Programme of Work of the 16th session of the UNPFII are related.

The High-level event of the General Assembly to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the UNDRIP that took place during the day of the 25th April is available on webcast: [part 1](#) and [part 2](#). The present summary only introduces the statements of the opening segment. The indigenous representatives that took the floor in the morning at this event were from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Arctic region. In the afternoon, representatives from the Pacific and Russia regions took the floor. The regular UNPFII session took place in the afternoon at the same time.

The complete list of the current Permanent Forum members is available in the Annex I.

The official report is available [here](#), which contains the exhaustive list of the recommendations of the UNPFII.

1. Executive Summary

This session of the UNPFII, due to the importance related to its theme, has been well-attended, particularly during the first week of the conference. Numerous indigenous organizations were present, however, the States attendance at this session has been lower than expected considering the importance of the theme. Various UN agencies and international organizations took the floor to express their policies that do include effectively indigenous peoples.

As general overview, the implementation gap between UNDRIP principles and concrete measures taken on the ground is still too important. The claims related to the respect of land rights, especially through the implementation of an effective right to free, prior and informed consent, were the most outlined. Numerous States that expressed their views during this session have expressed some positive national action plans, such as modification of the national legislation or recognition of indigenous peoples' culture, through the implementation of proper education that do include indigenous languages. Nonetheless, indigenous peoples raised numerous concerns related to climate change affectedness, contamination of their traditional lands and all related consequences this has for the communities, such as health issues, loss of traditional knowledge, displacement. One of the major themes that came out of this session relates to the particular attention that should be given to indigenous women, and to violence engendered against this particular group that suffer multiple forms of discrimination. Another topic concerned indigenous youth, with the request to leave them a greater place in the decision-making processes. Finally, the discussion on the theme of indigenous rights defenders showed the importance of this issue nowadays, with an attempt to alert the

international community on the measures that should be taken to provide them more protection, in the name of the basic right to life.

Finally, the recommendations of the UNPFII in its sixteenth session entail seventy recommendations, that entails the following themes:

- Human Rights
- Economic and social development
- Environment
- Culture
- Education
- Health
- Indigenous women
- Indigenous youth
- Dialogue with agencies, funds and programs of the UN system
- Dialogue with the SRRIP on the theme of indigenous rights defenders
- WCIP outcome document implementation
- 2030 Agenda and the SDGs
- For the future work of the UNPFII:
 - International Year 2019 for indigenous languages
 - UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement
 - 2030 Agenda and the SDGs

2. Details

Monday, 24 April

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

At the opening of the session, a conch, a traditional indigenous instrument from Charrua, Uruguay was played by **Ms. Mónica Michelena Díaz. M. Todadaho Sid Hill, Chief of the Onondaga Nation**, delivered a welcome message which stressed indigenous peoples' link to natural resources and land as spiritual matter and the urgent need for recognition of those rights.

For the election of officers, the Permanent Forum designated **Ms. Mariam Wallet Mohamed Aboubakrine as Chairperson** of the sixteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues by acclamation. In her introductory statement, she expressed the need for more engagement between the States and indigenous peoples, to fill the gap between political reality and the official recognition of indigenous communities on the ground. She further commented on the need to integrate indigenous peoples into the national action plans for the implementation of the SDGs, and underlined as a priority the consideration of the situation of the human rights defenders as point of debate for this session. The Forum also elected Mr. Phoolman Chaudhary, Mr. Jens Dahl, Mr. Jesus Guadalupe Fuentes Blanco and Ms. Terri Henry as Vice-Chairs; and **Mr. Brian Keane as Rapporteur**.

A first opening statement was delivered by the **Vice President of the General Assembly, H.E Durga Prasad Bhattarai**. He introduced the efforts realized by the General Assembly to enhance indigenous peoples' participation in the different UN mechanisms and announced that the international negotiations on the draft text will be finalized to present the resolution during the next session of the General Assembly. Then, **the Vice President of the ECOSOC, H. E. Ambassador Cristián Barros Melet** reminded us that the celebration of the 10th anniversary of UNDRIP is a way to implement the SDGs, by leaving no one behind and including indigenous peoples in the national action plans.

The following statements were made by the **Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, Department for Economic and Social Affairs, M. Lenni Montiel**, who put emphasis on the Action Plan put in place after the WCIP, which identified concrete measures to support the implementation of UNDRIP. **The Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs of Canada, Ms. Carolyn Bennett** stressed the need to create real partnerships with indigenous peoples through the application of the WCIP outcome document¹, and to focus those partnerships with the youth to foster a better future. Finally, **the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women, Ms. Lakshmi Puri**, outlined the role of indigenous women as agents of change in the seven following areas: ending multiple forms of discrimination; ending violence and harmful practices; economic rights and empowerment; unpaid care and domestic work and link to decent work; equal participation and leadership in decision making; sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights; and other SDGs and climate action.

- Discussion on the theme “Tenth anniversary of UNDRIP: measures taken to implement the Declaration”

MM Les Malezer and Gervais Nzoa, expert members, made introductory statements. They evoked the names of indigenous activists that advocated to defend indigenous peoples' interests at the international level, which led to the adoption of the UNDRIP ten years ago. Efforts remain to be done to avoid marginalization that indigenous peoples suffer, and there is a need to develop a more efficient communication strategy in that sense.

Numerous **States** made statements. **El Salvador, on behalf of the CELAC**, expressed its support of the preservation of indigenous languages, while **Colombia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela** reported on its efforts made to ensure a greater respect of community land ownership. **Bostwana** claimed as a general principle that all tribes and ethnic groups are indigenous to the country. **Finland and Norway** focused their intervention on the collaboration realized along with the Sámi people to ensure respect of their rights. **Mexico** presented the introduction of UNDRIP standards into their national and local legislations. **Guyana** stressed the different grants attributed to indigenous peoples to enhance their self-development. **The Plurinational State of Bolivia** sent a spiritual message by reminding us of the importance of the recognition of land rights to safeguard the culture. **South Africa** reminded us of the importance of leaving no one behind, referring to indigenous peoples. **Nicaragua and Panama** underlined the progress made for recognition of free, prior and informed consent. **El Salvador** pointed out the efforts to preserve indigenous diversity and rights. **Australia** stated that the government is working to take measures to implement the ends of UNDRIP. **Cuba** reiterated its commitment towards the defense of indigenous traditional rights. **The Russian Federation** pointed out the need for the creation of a platform on positive examples of the implementation of UNDRIP. **Guatemala** focused its intervention on public policies designed to fill indigenous cultural realities. The **Holy See**, in its quality of observer, acknowledges indigenous peoples' rights and raised concerns about the lack of implementation of the right to free, prior and informed consent.

Statements were also made by the representatives of the following **indigenous organizations**. **The International Indian Treaty Council** raised worries concerning the lack of implementation of UNDRIP and proposed to have the right to free, prior and informed consent as a topic for the next session of the UNPFII. **The Indigenous Network on Economics and Trade** asked the UNPFII to recommend that the government of Canada implement the UNDRIP. **Té Hika o Papauma Mandated Iwi Authority** warned of the assimilation of small indigenous communities in New Zealand. **Mbororo Social and**

¹ [A/RES/69/2](#)

Cultural Development Association welcomed the efforts made by the Cameroon government in the implementation of UNDRIP and recommended that a National Commission be set up to do so. The **Caribbean Amerindian Development Organization** underlined the need for an independent monitoring body to report on the challenges of the implementation of UNDRIP also to EMRIP members, with a focus on the right to free, prior and informed consent. The **Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, on behalf of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Caucus**, discussed the progress made in this region by the governments for more acknowledgement of indigenous peoples', however with disregard specifically regarding cultural specificities and the right to free, prior and informed consent. The **Congrès Mondial Amazigh** pointed out the lack of recognition of the Amazigh people by both governments of Algeria and Morocco, with marginalization of their culture. **Tonatierra** warned on the reality lived by indigenous peoples in Mexico and the lack of implementation of their rights. The **Indigenous Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean** described the four proposals that came out after a meeting gathering several communities in the region: proclamation of a right to the Mother Earth, creation of an American Charter on this matter, as well as an international convention to prevent crimes committed against Mother Earth, with penal sanctions. **Boro Women's Justice Forum** asked the government of India to recognize indigenous rights. **Assyrian Aid Society Iraq** alerted us to the situation faced by indigenous peoples in this area, in a context of high political instability. **Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation** asked the government of Viet Nam to hold an open dialogue and collaboration with indigenous peoples within the country. **Consejo Regional Indígena del Medio Amazonas** presented the violations of land that are affecting the lives of indigenous women every day.

Statements were made by the **others organizations**. **The Australian Human Rights Commission** stated that there was an ongoing collaboration with the Australian government to implement the ends of UNDRIP. The **IUCN and the ILO** raised concerns on the lack of implementation of the right to free, prior and informed consent. **The FAO** expressed its support to implement UNDRIP and reach food security for indigenous peoples, with a focus on collaboration with indigenous youth and women. **UN-Women on behalf of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues** expressed its commitment towards achieving the ends of UNDRIP with an inter-agency collaboration. **The IFAD** expressed its commitment towards indigenous peoples' issues, especially empowerment of indigenous women.

In reaction to those statements, some expert members expressed their views. **M. Les Malezer** emphasized the need for a greater recognition of the unique binding law agreement on indigenous rights, the ILO Convention n°169. **Ms. Lourdes Tibán Guala** raised the question on how to make UNDRIP ends binding for States. **Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea** underscored the importance of indigenous women and youth, with the recommendations made by the UNPFII and the effort that remains to be done to make those a reality on the ground.

Tuesday, 25 April

- High-level event of the General Assembly to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of UNDRIP (opening segment)

The opening statement was made by the **Vice President of the General Assembly, H.E Durga Prasad Bhattarai**. He stressed the important collaboration between indigenous peoples and States that leads to the adoption of UNDRIP. This new way of addressing the relationship between both actors facilitates the dialogue, even though many challenges, such as the discrimination of indigenous women, must be addressed. The key note that followed was delivered by **H.E. Mr. Evo Morales Ayma, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia**. First of all, he assessed the multiple crises faced by

the world nowadays: humanitarian, food, institutional, information. He then underlined the great progress realized in his country for indigenous peoples, tackling poverty and education, and integrating fully the UNDRIP to national legislation. He urged other States to recognize and integrate indigenous traditional knowledge into their health systems. He further stated in the need to implement a universal citizenship, along with independence of each country. **Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary-General**, stressed the progress made in the implementation of UNDRIP, but reminded us of the exclusion of women in decision-making processes, as well as systemic marginalization of indigenous peoples. **Mr. Andrew Gilmour, Assistant-Secretary-General of the New York Office of Human Rights**, called upon the UN to create a proper enabling environment allowing indigenous peoples to execute their rights, notably through supporting the UNVFIP. **Ms. Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine, Chairperson of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**, emphasized the importance of providing more protection to indigenous rights defenders who are defending their land rights; there have been a growing number of killings. She called on the States to actively engage for the achievement of the ends of UNDRIP. **Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, SRRIP**, urged efforts to reduce the increasing gap between theory and practice, as awareness of the lack of implementation of indigenous rights continues to grow, the lack of implementation of those rights, including the right to free, prior and informed consent, continues. There is a necessity to incorporate UNDRIP principles into national legislations. **Mr. Albert Barumé, Chairperson of EMRIP**, underlined the reconciliation aspect of UNDRIP between indigenous peoples and States, through a new type of partnership based on mutual trust and rights. Three efforts have to be stressed: 1. efforts have been made to include UNDRIP into national legislation, though challenges remain; 2. different human rights mechanisms use UNDRIP, including a growing number of NHRIs; 3. indigenous peoples affirmed their appropriation of UNDRIP, giving it a direction for its implementation.

- [Discussion on the theme “Tenth anniversary of UNDRIP: measures taken to implement the Declaration” \(continued\)](#)

Ms. Aisa Mukabenova, expert member, made an introductory statement to continue the examination of this agenda item. She mainly pointed out the collective efforts made at the international level that create a positive global action in the implementation of UNDRIP. However, she further stated the need to have the same interpretation of the rights contained in UNDRIP, faced by little political willingness. The cooperation among the three existing mechanisms on indigenous rights is key to strengthen the capacity of indigenous organizations.

A few **States** made statements. **Brazil** claimed education among indigenous peoples as a governmental priority, as well as the numerous initiatives made for indigenous health. **Namibia** explained its engagement through the participation in all main events regarding indigenous rights. **Ecuador** discussed the progress made in the national legislation for better recognition of indigenous cultures. **Denmark** pointed out the lack of follow-up of the recommendations made by the UNPFII, and pointed out the new position of the government of Greenland that would respect more indigenous rights. **The United States** presented the efforts to work together with tribal governments, and the efforts made on repatriation mechanisms. **Argentina** presented a national policy project on indigenous lands that would be further examined through the Consultative Council of Indigenous Peoples. **Nepal** explained that the public services were taking into consideration cultural particularities of indigenous peoples. **Peru** stressed the need to strengthen indigenous institutions, instead of focusing only on consultations. **Viet Nam** insisted on the multicultural aspect of its society, with the implementation of national plan to reduce poverty in the different groups.

Different representatives from various **indigenous organizations** took the floor. **The Assembly of First Nations** recommended enhancing the cooperation between States and indigenous peoples'

organizations to establish national action plans. **The Indigenous Environmental Network** made a statement on the violence committed against indigenous peoples and the Mother Earth in the Standing Rock Sioux reservation. **The Botswana Khwedom Council and the Asociación Nacional Indígena Salvadoreña** asked the government to ratify the ILO Convention nº169 and claimed the lack of implementation of the indigenous right to self-determination. The **Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples, AIM WEST and the Congrès Mondial Amazigh** also denounced this last point. **The NSW Aboriginal Land Council and Movimientos Indígenas Asociados** raised the concern of the lack of recognition of the cultural property rights. **Ogaden People's Rights Organization** alerted us to the humanitarian crisis faced by indigenous peoples in Somalia. **Greater Sylhet Indigenous Peoples Forum** asked more protection for minority rights in Bangladesh. **World Sindhi Congress** asked the government of Pakistan to respect their right to free, prior and informed consent in the case of large-scale development projects. **Pacos Trust** spoke of the gap between theory and reality in the field. **Fiji Indigenous Peoples Foundation** warned us of the continuing violation of indigenous rights in this country.

The following **other organizations** made statements. **UN-Women** reaffirmed its commitment to UNDRIP. **UNFPA** raised worries about the lack of available statistics regarding indigenous peoples, more specifically indigenous health in the countries. The **National Human Rights Institution of Norway** presented the efforts made in the area of education on indigenous rights within the country. The **Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines** asked for increased surveillance on the situation faced by indigenous peoples in the country, to help them to obtain free, prior and informed consent. The **Center for Indigenous Leadership of the Massey University** asked for increased allocation of resources to enable indigenous peoples' participation in international meetings, and respect of their rights to free, prior and informed consent and self-determination. **Cultural Survival** raised the concern about the lack of access to information, citing the killing of many indigenous journalists.

Several **expert members** reacted to this agenda item. **Mr. Les Malezer** wondered about the true nature of property titles owned by indigenous peoples. **Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea** offered to develop a recommendation on the recognition of indigenous cultural property rights, inviting all stakeholders to submit solutions to face the current challenges. **Mr. Jens Dahl** asked for examples on how indigenous organizations are dealing with the authorities when it comes to the implementation of UNDRIP rights in everyday life. **Ms. Lourdes Tibán Guala** underlined the gap between the statements made by the States and the ones made by indigenous organizations, with a call to prepare a report on the concrete steps made to implement UNDRIP in those last ten years. **Mr. Elifuraha Laltaika** invited indigenous organizations in Africa to rely on UNDRIP to improve the relationship with the States, as a first step towards collaboration and modification of national Constitutions. **Mr. Dmitrii Kharakka-Zaitsev** insisted on the importance of hearing more about what was not done in the implementation of UNDRIP from the States, and why. **Ms. Terri Henry** emphasized the lack of binding effect of UNDRIP, and stressed that maybe the time has come to ask for a Convention on Indigenous Peoples Rights. **Mr. Brian Keane** raised the concern that indigenous peoples are considered as obstacles by the government in their development policies.

Wednesday, 26 April

- Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to UNDRIP

Several **States** made statements under this agenda item. The first one was by the representative of **Greenland**, who expressed the inclusion of indigenous peoples and indigenous cultures by the government of Denmark in decision-making processes. **Botswana, Namibia, Panama, Guyana,**

Nicaragua, Bangladesh, Chile, the Philippines, Paraguay, Guatemala, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and Brazil presented the implementation of UNDRIP in-country with the adoption of policies in terms of education, health, indigenous languages and access to basic services. **The Russian Federation** affirmed a legislative project which aims at recognizing the use of the land by indigenous peoples. **Australia** stressed the need to support the creation of indigenous entrepreneurs, with a focus on indigenous women to empower the communities. **New Zealand** pointed out the recognition as a juridical person to a river important to the Maori people, as mean of acknowledgement of their culture. **Costa Rica** explained that it modified its national legislation to conform to UNDRIP standards in terms of indigenous economic and cultural rights. **Denmark** voiced an appeal to the government of Bangladesh to ensure that the Chittagong Hill Tracts Land Commission can operate fully without delay.

Statements were also made by the representatives of the following **indigenous organizations**. **The Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North** stressed the importance of involving indigenous youth in the development of indigenous culture, with capacity-building programs. **The Saami Parliament of Finland** claimed that there are violations by the government of Finland against the Saami people, without recognition of their traditional ways of fishing, despite the existing legislation. **Save Our Unique Landscape** insisted on the violation of land rights of the Maori people and urged the Permanent Forum to make recommendations in that sense. **Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network** expressed the multi discrimination faced by indigenous persons with disabilities, and enquired the governments about data on services given to them. **Altepetl Nahuas de la Montaña de Guerrero** presented the budget decrease in Mexico allocated for the development of indigenous peoples in-country and the lack of commitment to the implementation of UNDRIP. **American Indian Movement of Colorado** underlined the historical path to the recognition of indigenous rights, linking it with the current gap in implementation and challenges. **The International Indian Treaty Council** addressed the situation of indigenous peoples in Hawaii, with an ongoing collaboration with the government of the United States, but without proper recognition of their traditional lands. The **Congrès Mondial Amazigh** pointed out the marginalization that the Amazigh people in their countries experience. **The Saami Council, on behalf of the Arctic Caucus**, asked to establish an expert group on the right to free, prior and informed consent to help the States in the implementation of UNDRIP, and further stated the need for the Permanent Forum members to focus their recommendations on the implementation gaps. **The Indigenous Environmental Network** made a statement on the multiple violations committed against indigenous women in Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, with a proposal to focus the next expert group meeting on water. **The Red de Jóvenes Indígenas de América Latina y el Caribe** warned of the lack of available data concerning Indigenous youth in Latin America, and the increasing suicide rate among the youth, caused by discrimination. **Two Feathers International** warned of mining activities on indigenous lands in New Zealand without proper monitoring. **The Crimean Tatar Mejlis representing the Indigenous Crimean Tatars of Crimea, Ukraine**, denounced cases of the forced disappearances of Crimean Tatars and urged for the protection of the human rights defenders in this area. **Fundación Egdolina Thomas para la Defensa de los Derechos de los Habitantes de la Costa Caribe de Nicaragua** stressed the gap between the statements of the country and the reality of the continuous violations of indigenous peoples' rights in this country. **New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council** recommended a concrete implementation of indigenous social justice in Australia. **Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network** wondered whether the UN system could provide more funds for programs dedicated to indigenous peoples with AIDS, and claimed that the right to health should be the basis of all policies. **Indigenous Climate Action** urged Permanent Forum members to consider climate change as cross-cutting of the six mandated areas. **The Consejo Regional Indígena del Medio Amazonas** asked more recognition for indigenous women rights.

Statements were made by **others stakeholders**. **The International Union for Conservation of Nature** stated that the right to free, prior and informed consent was a core principle to the conservation of the environment and indigenous peoples' rights. **The International Fund for Agricultural Development** expressed their acknowledgement of indigenous traditional knowledge with a permanent space dedicated to indigenous peoples. **ILO** stressed the link between consequences of climate change and vulnerabilities suffered by indigenous peoples at work, with a knowledge of their own environment that must be considered. **The United Nations Institute for Training and Research** underlined that capacity-building for indigenous communities is a priority, with facilitating dialogue between indigenous peoples, the States and the private sector. **The Pan American Health Organization/WHO** warned of the lack of health services for sexual rights and access to abortion in indigenous communities, which considerably increases youth vulnerability. **The United Nations Environment Programme** expressed the need to recognize indigenous rights to protect the environment. **The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia** warned of the land grabbing faced by indigenous communities in Malaysia and the lack of political willingness to consider indigenous claims. **The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines** pointed out the multiple discrimination faced by indigenous peoples in the country and the lack of concrete implementation of indigenous rights.

Some **expert members** took the floor during this session. **Mr. Les Malezer** emphasized the need to give a central role to the right to self-determination. **Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea** stressed the need for a recommendation on indigenous youth and health, about access to sexual rights and health care that would provide a concrete collaboration with the UN agencies on this point. **Mr. Jens Dahl** congratulated the States for their participation and asked them to make sure that their national Constitutions respect indigenous rights without discrimination. **Mr. Dmitrii Kharakka-Zaitsev** wanted to warn about the disregard of States' perception towards indigenous peoples since they are their own citizens, and that the current opposition of forces could be transmuted for a better collaboration.

Thursday, 27 April

- Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to UNDRIP (continued)

Statements were made by few **States**. **South Africa** declared protecting traditional medicine, traditional plants and minerals as a goal. **Nepal** explained having included indigenous peoples' rights in its national Constitution. **China** claimed that the concept of indigenous peoples was a result of the colonization process and that the country fully respects its minorities. **Viet Nam** stated having fifty-four different ethnic groups that live in harmony in its national territory.

Numerous **indigenous organizations** made statements. **AIM WEST** underlined the need to recognize the 'Camino Real' as a cultural heritage by UNESCO, considering their right to free, prior and informed consent. The **National Colombian Indigenous Organization** asked to Permanent Forum members as well as the SRRIP to conduct a country visit to assess the human rights violations committed towards indigenous leaders and to guarantee their right to free, prior and informed consent. **Sengwer Indigenous Peoples Programme of Kenya** warned of the lack of respect of the right to free, prior and informed consent as well as on the lack of good management of the protected areas. **Kimberly Land Council** talked about the lack of information that the government of Australia provides in terms of the challenges for UNDRIP implementation. **American Indian Law Alliance** stressed the importance of preserving water, and of passing their own culture to future generations. **Coordinadora de Organizaciones Indígenas Campesinas y Comunidades Interculturales de Bolivia** emphasized the progress made in-country for the implementation of UNDRIP, through education, health and property

programs. **Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti** urged the government of Bangladesh to respect the Chittagong Hill Tracts, considering the increasing human rights violations within the country. **Confederación Sindical de Comunidades Interculturales de Bolivia** asked that the respect of indigenous rights be translated into facts and not only words. **The Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples** raised worries concerning the right to the ocean which is also considered as traditional 'land', and the new legislation in New Zealand regarding coastal activities. The **National Indigenous Women's Federation** asked Nepal to implement the right to free, prior and informed consent through the national Constitution. **Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association, on behalf of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights**, took as positive examples the Republic of Congo and the Centrafrican Republic, and invited other African States to also ratify ILO Convention nº169 and to take a stake in the numerous challenges faced by indigenous peoples in Africa. **Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations** emphasized the discrimination faced by indigenous peoples in Canada, as well as the violence committed against indigenous women, and urged the government to take bigger steps in the implementation of UNDRIP. **Centro para la Autonomía y Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas** presented the progress made in Nicaragua in terms of recognition to the right to self-determination and health care for indigenous women. **Kapaeeng Foundation** pointed out the land expropriation that is suffered by indigenous peoples in Bangladesh. **Land is Life and Pahtamawiikan** made a call for a larger place for the role of water and water protection in the debates. This has also been a point underlined by **International Native Tradition Interchange**, which further expressed its full support with the Standing Rock protest. **Te Hika O Papauma Mandated Iwi Authority** denounced the forced assimilation suffered by indigenous peoples in New Zealand. **Indigenous Network on Economies and Trade** claimed that it was time to put an end to colonialism. **Ingrid Washinawatok El-Issa Flying Eagle Fund** expressed worries around extractive industries projects on indigenous lands in Michigan and Wisconsin, in the United States. **The Ili Ili Student Organization, on behalf of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus**, asked Permanent Forum members to ensure full indigenous youth participation. **Mokuola Honva** stressed the importance of indigenous languages and the declaration of 2019 as Year of Indigenous Languages. **The Congrès Mondial Amazigh** warned us of human rights violations in Algeria and Morocco and urged the Permanent Forum to ask governments to implement UNDRIP. **Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation exposed** the violation of land rights committed against indigenous peoples in Vietnam, who are not recognized as such in this country. **Fiji Indigenous Peoples' Foundation** reported on the numerous violations made to indigenous rights in Fiji, and urged the government to implement UNDRIP. **Assyrian Aid Society of Iraq** asked for help for indigenous communities to rebuild the society and the infrastructures to create an enabling environment for indigenous peoples.

Others organizations made statements. **The International Development Law Organization** presented the launch of their policy on women and food security with the work with customary law. **The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean States** presented the launch of indicators to evaluate the progress made in terms of the implementation of the right to free, prior and informed consent in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the wish to have more data concerning indigenous women and youth. **VIVAT International/Franciscans International** reaffirmed indigenous rights to life, physical integrity and health and outlined concerns about violations of indigenous rights in Brazil, Indonesia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea. **Passionist International** asked the government of the Philippines to improve living conditions of indigenous peoples. **Society for Threatened Peoples** warned of the situation faced by the Ouïghour people in China and the repression they are victims of due to the implementation of anti-terrorist law in this country. **The Indonesia National Commission on Human Rights** stressed that the Constitution was recognizing indigenous peoples, however challenges remain, and the government must make more efforts in the implementation of indigenous rights. **Chief Wilton Littlechild, EMRIP expert member,**

made a statement looking at the importance of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Development, leaving no one behind. He further insisted on the juridical responsibility that binds States in the implementation of international norms regarding indigenous peoples' rights.

Numerous expert members took the floor. **Mr. Jens Dahl** underlined the necessity for indigenous organizations to continue to raise their specific concerns to the Permanent Forum for the expert members to exert pressure on the governments concerned. **Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea** would like to hear more concrete recommendations, with actions taken regarding their implementation, with a focus on indigenous youth and health. **Mr. Les Malezer** stressed the binding aspect of the international norms and how States should respect them, with a particular attention to the right to self-determination. **They both** reacted to China's statement by condemning the link made between indigenous peoples and terrorism. **Mr. Elifuraha Laltaika** took notes of the expressed human rights violations in Africa and will set up an expert meeting in that regard. **Mr. Jesus Guadalupe Fuentes Blanco** insisted on the importance for the organizations that subscribed to the speakers' list to stay in the room in order not to take the slot of someone else. **Mr. Dmitrii Kharakka-Zaitsev** noted the importance of the theme of the ocean, which has been expressed during this session, and further asked States and indigenous organizations to share examples of bilingual / bicultural educational systems. **Ms. Anne Nuorgam** pointed out the need to have a proper mechanism concerning the right to free, prior and informed consent. **Mr. Gervais Nzoa** wondered, considering all the presented challenges, if it was not necessary to rethink the methods of work of the Permanent Forum as well as its mission.

- Follow-up on the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

The Rapporteur of this session, Mr. Brian Keane, gave an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum. He reported on the number of recommendations realized by the Permanent Forum; there are more than 1200 since the first session. The progress made for the implementation of those recommendations concerns five areas of work: 1. empowerment of indigenous women; 2. Enforcement of indigenous youth participation within the UN system; 3. the year 2019 as year of Indigenous Languages as claimed by the General Assembly; 4. efforts made in the realm of the 2030 Agenda for Development; 5. implementation of the international action plan for the UN system regarding indigenous rights. He further underlined the need for organizations to provide expert members with concrete recommendations that would be a good basis for work.

An interactive dialogue ensued, during which Mr. Keane responded to questions raised and comments made by the representatives of some **indigenous organizations**. **The International Indian Treaty Council** pointed out the progress made in the recognition of indigenous cultural heritage and repatriation mechanisms, jointly with UNESCO, and wanted to make sure that those recommendations were added to the list. **Representative from the Menonita mission**, from Honduras, stressed there was no follow-up on the problems faced by indigenous communities in Honduras. **The World Sindhi Congress** wanted to know how it would be possible to request a country visit to the rapporteur or Permanent Forum members. **The Congrès Mondial Amazigh** raised a concern on how to bring the governments into a dialogue with indigenous organizations. **The Indigenous Peoples Network of Nicaragua** asked whether it would be possible to have the engagement of expert members in the situation faced by indigenous peoples in the country, as they have just received the visit from the SRRIP. **The Malaysian Human Rights Commission** emphasized the role of the NHRIs, which is important to consider, and how they can learn from expert members. The **Fiji Indigenous Peoples Foundation** asked how you can improve living conditions on the field when there is no enjoyment of rights.

The **Rapporteur** answered mostly by stating that the SRRIP could conduct country visits upon the invitation of the governments, and that the Permanent Forum could provide recommendations to States to facilitate the dialogue. Another tool available is to enquire assistance from EMRIP, through the revised mandate.

Empowerment of indigenous women

The Forum heard an introductory statement by the **Chairperson of the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, H.E Mr. Antonio Patriota de Aguiar**. He first of all noted the role played by education and land titling to improve the condition of indigenous women. They are the traditional holders of knowledge, even though they face a lot of discrimination and violence, even within the communities. Empowerment of indigenous women should directly address their participation in local economies, and in decision-making processes.

Some **States** took the floor. **Finland, on behalf of the Nordic countries**, outlined the need for more recognition of sexual and reproductive rights of indigenous women. **Guyana** presented its policies dedicated to indigenous women, with empowerment measures and improvement in the access to health and maternal care. **Canada and New Zealand** insisted on economic empowerment of indigenous women and the efforts made in that regard. **Mexico and the United States** explained the implementation of policies facilitating access to justice for Indigenous women and girls. **Brazil** stated that it conducted a meeting that focused exclusively on Indigenous women's health. **Guatemala** is seeking that more Indigenous women and girls contribute to public policies and decision-making processes. **Australia** stressed the educational measures taken to empower Indigenous women.

Statements were made by some **indigenous organizations**. The **Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordination Committee** warned of the violence on indigenous women and girls, notably in terms of genital female mutilation and violence. It is important to include indigenous women in the decision-making processes. **Asia Indigenous Women's Network** asked to secure indigenous land and to find solutions to violence committed against indigenous women and girls. **Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú** pointed out the need to have parity within expert members and enquired about freedom for all indigenous women activists who are in jail. **The International Indian Treaty Council** underlined environmental issues in Mexico, related to chemical waste and its effect on indigenous health. **MADRE** stressed the link between indigenous women and climate change resilience. **The International Indigenous Women's Forum** expressed the need to have data on indigenous women and to enable their participation in international forums.

Others organizations took the floor. **The Convention on Biological Diversity** expressed the need to use the terminology of indigenous peoples and local communities and to include indigenous youth in its plans. **UN-Women** gave the example of a launch of an empowerment program in Brazil in national and international settings. **Chief Wilton Littlechild, EMRIP member**, cheered the celebration of the next World Indigenous Games in Canada through enhanced participation by indigenous women and girls. **The Australian Human Rights Commission** stressed the need to create more opportunities around culture-based activities to empower indigenous women. **The National Human Rights Institution of Norway** pointed out the cultural barriers between the Norwegian society and the Saami people, which impact the reports of sexual abuses and domestic violence faced by Saami women.

Indigenous youth

The Forum heard introductory statements by the representative of **the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus** recommended to the Permanent Forum to generate data on indigenous youth, to implement

the SDGs considering the specificities of indigenous youth, to empower indigenous youth through economic and agricultural means. The **Co-Chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development** outlined the numerous challenges related to land and the environment, however highlighting the efforts made by UNESCO and ILO to consider indigenous youth in their programs, notably using technology.

Some **States** made statements. **The Russian Federation** explained supporting indigenous peoples' farmers in remote areas, to implement the SDGs and to maintain their culture, also by putting in place home schooling for indigenous children to guarantee equal access to education in specific regions of the country. **New Zealand and Australia** ensured that it is doing its best to provide indigenous youth access to equal opportunities. **Ecuador** established a national plan to end discrimination and to promote intercultural education. **Denmark** discussed the importance of indigenous youth participation in all relevant programs and strategic plans, to ensure an intergenerational dialogue.

Statements were also made by the representatives of the following **indigenous organizations**. **The Congrès Mondial Amazigh** warned of the identity rupture that indigenous Amazigh youth face, without future perspectives. **Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program** asked to put an end to the violence committed against indigenous children. **Gitanmaax Band** recommended that the Permanent Forum have environmental violence and its effects on maternal care as the theme of one of their sessions, and asked for follow-up on the recommendations already made on indigenous youth. **Finnish Sámi Youth Organization** warned of the situation regarding traditional ways of fishing that are being reduced by national legislations, and asked the government of Finland to ratify ILO Convention n°169 and to respect the right to free, prior and informed consent. **Confederación Indígena Tayrona** invited the SRRIP to conduct a country visit to Colombia and to edit a report with a focus on indigenous women and youth. **The Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact** asked for more funding programs and scholarships to enable indigenous youth participation in international meetings, including monitoring of this participation. The **National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition** reminded the importance of considering indigenous children that have been taken away from their families, without returning.

The **Food and Agriculture Organization** pointed out the meeting that was held in the FAO headquarters, with representatives from the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, to foster indigenous youth programs related to their activities.

Mr. Dmitrii Kharakka-Zaitsev stated that he would like to hear more on systematic information and not only on particular cases, to be able to address a global strategy. **Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea** asked for inter-agency cooperation to take concrete measures to the challenges faced by indigenous women and indigenous youth, especially in terms of violence and discrimination.

Friday, 28 April

- Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples:
 - (a) Implementation of national action plans, strategies or 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. Jorge Alberto Jiménez, General Director, Bureau for Comprehensive Social Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, underlined the need to end with the classic opposition that rule between government and indigenous peoples, and to have more comprehensive approach on how each other functions. He further stated on the necessity for its country to ratify the ILO

Convention n°169. **H.E Kai Sauer, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations and an Adviser to the President of the General Assembly on the process to enable the participation of the indigenous peoples at the United Nations**, further explained the process of consultations held with indigenous representatives in order to strengthen their participation within the UN system, with diffusion of information in different languages and cooperation with the different indigenous rights mechanisms of the UN system. **Ms. Beatrice Duncan of the UN-Women and Co-Chair of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues**, emphasized the importance of the WCIP outcome document and the positive consequences for indigenous peoples at the international level, at the moment of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, leaving no one behind. To raise awareness of UNDRIP at the country level is of crucial importance.

Numerous **States** took the floor under this agenda item. **Guyana** explained two important policies, one on the renaming of a law called Indigenous Peoples law, and the other one that grants indigenous property to their lands, with respect of the right to free, prior and informed consent. **South Africa** insisted on the importance of having a continuous participation to the consultations and meetings, to ensure a proper follow-up of the issues. **Namibia** recognizes that indigenous peoples require a specific attention and implemented proper action plans. The SRRIP conducted a country visit and issued a report. **Australia and Canada** affirmed its support of the consultation process of indigenous organizations to enable their participation in the UN system. **Mexico** will make more efforts to facilitate full participation of indigenous peoples. **The Russian Federation** claimed its support of indigenous peoples and the enjoyment of their rights, with the implementation of two platforms dedicated to indigenous peoples' participation in the country. **Guatemala** presented its national action plan to enable indigenous peoples' participation, but also Afro-descendants to facilitate the dialogue with the institutions. **Paraguay** presented a policy that ensures the implementation of indigenous peoples' rights, with the support of the UNPFII members and Secretariat. **New Zealand** explained the implementation plan of the WCIP outcome document, paragraph 11 with the Maori people. **The United States** outlined that States' sovereignty should be respected considering indigenous peoples' participation in the UN system.

Statements were also made by the representatives of the following **indigenous organizations**. The **Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network** would like indigenous organizations to participate in all relevant meetings, with the possibility of submitting written subscriptions. **CONAMAQ** stated the importance of respecting Mother Earth through the implementation of the right to free, prior and informed consent. **The Crimean Tatar Mejlis representing the Indigenous Crimean Tatars of Crimea, Ukraine** talked about the violations committed against Crimean Tatars and asks Russia to stop its persecution towards them. **The Congrès Mondial Amazigh** recommended an action plan to make indigenous peoples' participation in the decision-making processes effective at the country level. The **International Indian Treaty Council** stressed the importance of repatriation mechanisms on indigenous cultural heritage. **The International Public Organization Foundation for Research and Support of Indigenous Peoples of Crimea** warned of the continuous Human Rights violations that the indigenous peoples in Russia suffer, including violence against indigenous women. **Tin Hinan Association** recommended that regional action plans should be developed in collaboration with indigenous peoples of west Africa to achieve the ends of UNDRIP. **The Caucus of Indigenous Languages** voiced an appeal to the UNESCO to implement a mechanism to defend indigenous languages. Indigenous languages should be included in the different programs and action plans of the implementation of UNDRIP or the WCIP outcome document.

Some **other organizations** made statements. **The International Union for Conservation of Nature** claimed to have modified its status to enable indigenous peoples' participation in its related processes, taking its example from the UN system. **The World Bank** says it is working together with indigenous

peoples, with the edition of Guidance Note on the respect of the right to free, prior and informed consent for the projects that are financed by the World Bank. **The OHCHR** emphasized the need to implement all UNDRIP related articles and not only a few as it is about a general issue of Human Rights. The **National Human Rights Commission of Thailand** stressed that there is no recognition of indigenous peoples as such in this country but ethnic groups, and that they do not have access to land property. **The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines** presented an action plan to protect indigenous rights defenders, with the establishment of an observatory that would measure the impact of indigenous policies. **The Massey University Center for Indigenous Leadership** stressed the importance of collaborating with persons who know how to work together with indigenous peoples, which is not the case of many UN agencies. They recommend that the UN hire more indigenous peoples in its system. **Mr. Alexey Tsykarev, EMRIP expert member**, expressed his support of the International Indian Treaty Council statement on the need to create an international organism that would focus on the repatriation of indigenous cultural heritage. **Mr. Albert Barumé, Chairperson of EMRIP**, underlined the efforts realized in Africa for the implementation of indigenous peoples' rights, and further asked the different governments to develop a set of indicators that would measure wellness and protection of indigenous peoples, in accordance with the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

A few **expert members** made statements. **Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea** assessed the need for governments to have a careful look at discrimination committed against indigenous peoples, with creation of more data. **Mr. Les Malezer** stressed the importance of having a representation of indigenous peoples at all levels in the decision-making processes. **Mr. Elifuraha Laltaika** made a call for international support and for interconnecting data for effective participation. **Ms. Lourdes Tibán Guala** raised concern on the decreasing lack of participation by indigenous peoples in international settings, due to lack of funding.

Monday, 1 May

- [Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with regards to indigenous human rights defenders](#)

The SRRIP, Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, in her introductory statement, presented the activities to promote indigenous peoples' rights in the fulfillment of the mandate. She firstly spoke of the reconciliation aspect of UNDRIP. The major challenges concern the rights over land, natural resources and to free, prior and informed consent. The link between conservation measures and indigenous rights is important to make. Positive impacts for indigenous peoples are foreseen after the adoption of UNDRIP and the implementation of national action plans in some countries. She further warned of the situation of indigenous peoples in the countries she recently visited, such as Honduras, Australia, the United States.

The following **States** participated in the interactive dialogue. **The United States** raised a question on how to implement the rights of indigenous women and girls. **Mexico** reiterated its invitation to the SRRIP to conduct a country visit in November 2017, and asked what have been the best practices regarding implementation of the right to free, prior and informed consent for the States, so it could take inspiration from it. **Guatemala** commented on the policy adopted to protect natural resources that bring together business and human rights norms. The SRRIP received an invitation from this country. **Norway, on behalf of the Nordic countries**, asked what would be the key elements of efficient mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders at the national level. **Bangladesh** ensured that the Constitution and the government do respect and protect indigenous peoples' and their rights.

Some **indigenous organizations** also provided some inputs to the dialogue. **The International Indian Treaty Council** made a comment on the visit of SRRIP to the United States, a consequence of which was a hearing conducted by the American Human Rights Commission, in which the State choose not to participate. **The Council of the Crees** reminded that the right to free, prior and informed consent is part of the right to self-determination of indigenous peoples, and that it is important to work with both instruments of ILO Convention n°169 and UNDRIP. **COICA** would like to know how it would be possible to strengthen the situation of human rights defenders in the field. **Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact** asked to the SRRIP what actions will it take together with Asian States to ensure the respect of indigenous peoples' rights. **The Ogaden Peoples Rights Association** invited the SRRIP to consider the situation of indigenous peoples' in Ethiopia. **Tin Hinan Association** invited the SRRIP to realize a visit to the Sahel area in Africa, and asked both the OHCHR and the SRRIP what measures have been taken to facilitate the SRRIP visits in the countries where the lives of human rights defenders are threatened. **Nation of Hawaii** would like to hear how it would be possible to expand consultation rights to non-federal recognized tribes. **Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation** stated that it would be interested in exploring the possibilities offered by conflict-resolution mechanisms to be included into UNPFII members' resolutions.

Numerous **expert members** expressed their views. **Ms. Terri Henry** reacted to the SRRIP's statement section about the Dakota Access Pipeline situation, and the serious violations of indigenous rights committed in this area. She suggested that capitalist logic was not the solution and it would be better to seek more corporate responsibility in this kind of cases. **Mr. Gervais Nzoa** invited African States to present reports about the situation of indigenous peoples in conflict zones. **Mr. Jens Dahl** claimed that States should respect the rights of their human rights defenders and apply their policies in that regard. **Mr. Les Malezer** noted the importance of providing more immediate protection to indigenous rights defenders, that represent 40% of the crimes committed against human rights defenders in general. **Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea, Ms. Lourdes Tiban Guala and Ms. Anne Nuorgam** insisted on the importance of having a proper mechanism for following up on the implementation of the recommendations that have been made to the States.

Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, SRRIP, reacted to the interventions made, by first expressing that investors' rights are more protected than indigenous rights, which creates a serious situation for indigenous peoples. On the mechanisms for the implementation of the right to free, informed and prior consent, she insisted on the importance for States and indigenous organizations to dialogue that uses as a basis both instruments of the ILO Convention n°169 and UNDRIP. On Ethiopia, she expressed her willingness to conduct a country visit to assess indigenous peoples' situation in this country. She invited the government of Bangladesh to enter into communication with her team, to foster the dialogue concerning the peace agreement between the government and indigenous peoples. On the situation in Sahel, she underlined that the discussion is outlined by the European Commission, and that it is important to hear the recommendations of indigenous peoples. She finally expressed the need to implement a follow-up mechanism on the recommendations the SRRIP proposes. The topic of her next thematic report will be on how indigenous peoples' rights defenders are being protected and put at risk.

- [Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with regards to indigenous human rights defenders](#)

The Chairperson of EMRIP, Mr. Albert Barumé, introduced the latest work conducted by EMRIP. The previous EMRIP study was on indigenous health, which is a fundamental aspect of the right to self-determination; and the next one will be on good practices and challenges in business and in access to

financial services by indigenous peoples. The next EMRIP session will be held in Geneva, from the 10th to 14th of July. The [resolution of the Human Rights Council 33/25](#) amended EMRIP mandate with a new composition of seven members, the possibility of freely choosing the theme of the annual studies and to provide technical advice upon request on UPR process and treaty bodies, to engage with the private sector and at the country level and to disseminate good practices for the different actors. He further discussed safeguarding environmental rights for indigenous peoples, with a particular focus that should be given to the protection of indigenous women who defend those rights. Following his intervention, **the Chairperson of the UNVFIP, Ms. Mirna Cunningham**, talked about the importance of the contributions allowed by the UNVFIP to more than eighty indigenous delegates for the year 2016. The UNVFIP receives numerous applications, but its capacity allows it to provide funding to only a quarter of those. The decision has been made to fund the same amount of grantees as the past year, and deepest appreciation is expressed to the States that contribute actively to the fund: Australia, Argentina, Estonia, Finland, the Holy See, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Chile, Turkey and Spain.

Different **States** made comments for this agenda item. **South Africa** discussed the challenges faced by human rights defenders and the actions taken to tackle those issues. **Chile** explained the efforts made towards indigenous rights defenders, notably through lawyers who help indigenous peoples in the case of land conflicts. **The Russian Federation** explained that the international community did not agree on a common definition for indigenous peoples or for human rights defenders, and that the rights of minorities were recognized through national and federal levels. **Norway, on behalf of the Nordic countries**, stated that half of killings of human rights defenders committed in 2016 relate to indigenous or environmental activists. The SDGs cannot be implemented without a fruitful environment; the States must address their human rights obligations seriously. **The European Union, in its quality of observer**, reminded us of its involvement in the protection of human rights defenders, particularly to indigenous rights defenders. The EU has developed a policy that provides grants to human rights defenders at risk.

Indigenous organizations participated actively to this session. **The Indigenous World Association** claimed that the United States government failed to address recommendations regarding indigenous peoples' rights. **The West Papua Interest Association** warned about the situation faced by indigenous peoples of West Papua, who are suffering severe violations of their rights. **The United Confederation of Taino People and the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, on behalf of the Asia Caucus**, asked to EMRIP, the UNPFII, and the SRRIP to conduct an appeal to promote mechanism for active protection of indigenous rights defenders, and to undertake an intensive study on their situation to address this struggle. **Telke** raised worries about mining activity on traditional land in Russia. A possible solution could be to increase the corporate social responsibility to protect indigenous peoples' rights. **COICA** highlighted the need to make the vulnerable situation of indigenous women rights defenders more visible. **Ogaden People's Rights Organization** warned of the continuous human rights violations committed in Ethiopia. **Nacionalidad Sapara del Ecuador** noted the violation of their land by a Chinese company for oil exploitation. **Forest Peoples Programme** called on the SRRIP, EMRIP and UNPFII to develop a policy on conservation activities and indigenous peoples. **West Papua Liberation Organization** made an appeal to the UN's responsibility to recognize the right to self-determination of the people from West Papua. **International Indian Treaty Council** discussed the inappropriate use of forces that is being used against indigenous rights defenders, and their qualification as 'terrorists'. **Chin Human Rights Organization** called upon the international community, including the EU, to provide support to human rights defenders in Asia. **The Association Tamaynut** expressed worries about the Amazigh people in Morocco, and ask for dialogue with the State. **The International Native Tradition Interchange** underlined the situation on the Dakota Access Pipeline. **The Crimean Tatar Mejlis representing the Indigenous Crimean Tatars of Crimea, Ukraine**, warned of the lack of freedom of expression in Crimea and continuing violations of

human rights. **Save Our Unique Landscape** invited the SRRIP to conduct a country visit to New Zealand with the aim of assessing the human rights violations. **Pacos Trust** recommended an enhanced cooperation between the SRRIP, EMRIP, the UNPFII and the different human rights mechanisms on the relationship between indigenous rights and the environment. **Indigenous Peoples Organization of Australia** thanked the SRRIP for its country visit in March 2017 but still highlighted that no indigenous organizations were receiving direct funding from the government of Australia. The **Assyrian Aid Society of Iraq** raised the issue of the politicization of the Nineveh valley, where indigenous peoples suffer forced assimilation and are forced to migrate. **Land is Life** emphasized the importance of considering indigenous peoples' rights in a holistic way. **Tribal Link** expressed its worries about the lack of expression by government on the true situation faced by human rights defenders on the field, and asked to be provided with more feedback from the mandate-holders. **Foundation for Indigenous Americans of Anasazi Heritage** sent a spiritual message to the assembly, by reminding it of the importance of Mother Earth, and the genocide committed by the United States.

Two **others organizations** made statements. **The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines** highlighted the vulnerability of human rights defenders and the need to strengthen protection. **The Center for Indigenous Leadership of the Massey University** asked the creation of disaggregated data on human rights defenders, with attention to indigenous rights defenders.

The following **expert members** made comments. **Mr. Jesus Guadalupe Fuentes Blanco** expressed the need to find a way to coordinate the different agendas of the three different UN mechanisms on indigenous peoples' rights to work more efficiently at the strategic level. **Mr. Les Malezer** underlined the recent contribution of the Russian federation to the UNVFIP, and made an appeal to the States for contributions. **Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea** emphasized the difficult role held by indigenous women leaders who are threatened if they defend their rights, and also on the importance for States to contribute to the UNVFIP to allow participation of those defenders in the dialogue. **Ms. Anne Nuorgam** made clear the duty of States to protect human rights defenders, and the implementation of the different guidelines related to business and human rights. **Mr. Elifuraha Laltaika** raised worries about the situation of indigenous rights defenders in Africa, and invited more African countries to issue an official invitation to the SRRIP for a country visit.

Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, SRRIP, in her concluding remarks, insisted on the duty of the international community to protect human rights defenders and invited indigenous organizations to send to her direct communications for her to collaborate with the State. **Mr. Albert Barumé, Chairperson of EMRIP**, emphasized the need to enable dialogue between indigenous peoples and States that should bring more attention to indigenous voices. EMRIP members should encourage those dialogues.

Wednesday, 3 May

- [Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(final\)](#)

Mr. Jens Dahl, expert member, made an introductory statement on the closed meeting held with the UN specialized agencies. The reports are very useful to those agencies for proclaiming policies and methods of cooperation. Translation of the reports in indigenous languages, capacity-building programs dedicated to indigenous peoples, and the creation of disaggregated data on indigenous peoples are all of crucial importance.

Only two **States** made statements. **Indonesia** claimed its national sovereignty on West Papua, with respect of human rights. **Ecuador** highlighted the importance to safeguard indigenous languages, through the support provided by the new government to indigenous languages education.

A few **indigenous organizations** made statements. **The Boro Women's Justice Forum** warned about the situation of forced cultural assimilation which threatens the survival of this people. **COICA** sought solutions through the creation of a world map that would show a census of all indigenous territories and help to define them more precisely in the international arena. **Consejo Shipibo Konibo Xetebo Coshikox** asked to the government of Peru to recognize land rights to the Shipibo people to guarantee them a future. **The Greater Sylhet Indigenous Peoples Forum of Bangladesh** raised the importance of the promotion and education in indigenous languages that are disappearing. **The Anishinabek Nation** raised concerns about a nuclear project in a region of multiple lakes, which will cause great damage to the environment. **The Asamblea Nacional Indígena Plural por la Autonomía**, spoke of the lack of political willingness to respect indigenous peoples' cultures and rights in Mexico. **The Yamasi People** claimed they suffered aggression by the United States administration and that there was a lack of recognition of their rights. **CONAIE** made a formal request to the Permanent Forum, to foster dialogue with the government of Ecuador to implement the right to free, prior and informed consent. **Kamakakuokalani Center for Human Studies** stressed the need for an international Convention on indigenous peoples' rights, and to cease the forced cultural assimilation that is ongoing in New Zealand. **Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas** outlined the need to provide greater support and protection to indigenous women.

The **Thai Commission of Human Rights** warned that indigenous peoples in Thailand did not enjoy citizenship of the country, which means they do not enjoy basic services. **Representative of the Parliament of Mexico** stated that indigenous peoples, in terms of country development policies, are subject to a logic of dependence on poverty programs and the respect of their rights this could end easily.

Ms. Lourdes Tiban Guala, expert member, proposed an acknowledgement the work realized by Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen, which created a strong policy in the indigenous rights movement.

Thursday, 4 May

- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

An introductory statement by the **Chairperson of the forty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission, Ms. Wasmália Bivar of Brazil** was made. She stressed the creation of indicators to measure the implementation of the SDGs, with a focus on indigenous peoples' identity. She further commented on the awareness of the need to create more disaggregated data on indigenous peoples, cultures, food traditions and education, but the full support of States is required. **A representative of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs**, focused its intervention on the outcomes of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. To reach remote communities with the aim of leaving no one behind is central, and there is an awareness that indigenous issues have to be included in the 2030 Agenda implementation.

States took the floor under this agenda item. **Chile** considers the 2030 Agenda for Development as a route map for progress in public policies and should include all parts of the society. **Bangladesh** put in place an inter-agency Committee to monitor the implementation of the SDGs in the country. **Guatemala** commented that its national census will start at the end of the year, gathering data on peoples' ethnicity as well. **China** stated that indigenous peoples are marginalized groups, and asked its

national businesses to increase their social corporate responsibility to be beneficial for everyone. **Australia** explained its national policy to implement the SDGs to reduce the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples. **Ecuador** explained the different positive policies put in place that respect indigenous rights, including the right to free, prior and informed consent, which is in the national Constitution.

Indigenous organizations made statements. **COICA** recommended that the States create data on policies that affect indigenous peoples, and promote regional reports on the implementation of the SDGs. This last point was shared by **Tebtebba**, which further asked for the creation of a global indicator on customary land rights tenure. **The International Indian Treaty Council** stressed the need for an effective participation of indigenous leaders, healers and organizations in the decision-making processes linked to the implementation of the SDGs. **Ogaden People's Rights Organization** insisted on the need to implement the right to free, prior and informed consent with the objective of leaving no one behind. **VIVAT international and Franciscans International** questioned the current model of development linked to extractive industries in the framework of the respect of human rights. **Passionist International** outlined the importance of the participation in the decision-making processes. **Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network** affirmed that indigenous persons with disabilities are excluded from the national consultations, and that indigenous women and girls with disabilities have to be taken into account. **Tribal Link Foundation** warned of the lack of participation of indigenous peoples in Russia in the case of extractive industries activities on indigenous lands. **Zoro** is fighting to develop sustainable development management in its traditional lands and seeks the assistance of the international community. **Boro Women's Justice Forum** asked the States to raise awareness on the SDGs to indigenous peoples, and the creation of disaggregated data. **Pahtamawiikan** wanted to put balance back to restore sovereignty of the different indigenous Nations, based on equality. The **Anishinabek Nation** made a call to raise awareness on the situation faced by numerous different communities in Canada and the lack of consultation they experience. **Yamasi People and Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation** raised the importance of respecting the right to free, prior and informed consent and of respecting natural resources. **International Native Tradition Interchange** asked for the appointment of an ambassador who would represent indigenous peoples' interests in the international settings when it comes to discussions about the SDGs. **Tin Hinan Association** called upon the UN to include indigenous women from Africa in the adoption and implementation of the Agenda 2030.

A statement was made by **UNDP**, which considers indigenous concerns as a priority in their agenda through the implementation of the SDGs.

Mr. Gervais Nzoa discussed the importance of revising the working methods of the Permanent Forum, to better address the various issues underlined in the statements and to enhance its capacity. **Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea** stated that for a proper implementation of the SDGs, gender equality is a central aspect and that indigenous organizations have to contribute to the policy-making with a bottom-up approach.

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

Ms. Aisa Mukabenova, member of the Permanent Forum, made an introductory statement, in which she acknowledged the importance of the recognition by the UNESCO of 2019 as Year of Indigenous Languages. If concrete measures are not taken soon, those languages will disappear during the twenty-first century. 2019 must be the starting point for the creation of a long-term strategy in the preservation of indigenous languages.

The following **States** took the floor. **Guatemala** explained the different policies put in place by the ministry of Culture and Sports to promote indigenous cultures in the country. **Mexico** expressed its support at the international level through different cooperation mechanisms to enhance indigenous peoples' participation in the UN system. **The Russian Federation** would like to see the creation of an exchange platform on best good practices for the implementation of indigenous peoples' rights, and further expressed its support of 2019 as Year of Indigenous Languages. **Australia** underlined the policy on indigenous language that is ongoing in the country, along with education program on indigenous art. **Brazil** recommended to intensifying the six areas of work of the Permanent Forum. **Ecuador** presented its policies on indigenous languages and recognized the need to take concrete measures to safeguard indigenous traditional knowledge.

Numerous **indigenous organizations** took the floor. **Ka lahui Hawaii** asked for the implementation of UNDRIP and inter-agency cooperation as Hawaii can enter in a decolonization process. **The Stitching Forest People's Programme** underlined the importance to make the link between indigenous traditional knowledge and development. **The United Methodist Church-General board of global ministries** discussed the implementation of local programs to save indigenous languages. **COICA** insisted on the creation of disaggregated data about indigenous rights defenders and the implementation of UNDRIP. **Fiji Indigenous People's Foundation** asked that land rights be respected through the implementation of indicators on land tenure in the realm of the 2030 Agenda. **The American Indian Law Alliance** exhorts the UNESCO to take more measures for the protection of indigenous traditional knowledge, cultures and languages. **The Indigenous Peoples Organization of Australia** warned of the situation faced by indigenous women in this country. **The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, on behalf of the Forest Peoples' Programme and Tebtebba Foundation**, warned of the situation faced by indigenous peoples in Tanzania and asks about the full implementation of the World Bank guidelines to respect the right to free, prior and informed consent of those communities. **The International Indian Treaty Council** reminded us of the importance of the creation of an indigenous peoples' platform on traditional knowledge in the realm of the climate change negotiations. **Passionist International** asked the Permanent Forum to make recommendations for the preservation of traditional knowledge and the protection of indigenous biodiversity. **Cubraiti** raised concerns over the migration amendment adopted recently in the United States which, in a sense, criminalizes indigenous peoples. **Pahtamawiikan** raised concerns over the continuous attacks committed against indigenous cultures as such. **The Assyrian Aid Society of Iraq** talked about the importance for the Permanent Forum to dedicate time to conduct campaigns that would promote indigenous languages. **Ogaden People's Rights Organization** raised worries about the disappearance of indigenous traditional knowledge and languages. **Yamasi People** proposed that one of the solutions would be to empower indigenous women through an economic activity that promotes traditional indigenous knowledge. **Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation** emphasized the need to recognize indigenous land rights and to ensure their right to free, prior and informed consent. **Greater Sylhet Indigenous Peoples Forum** outlined that the government of Bangladesh is implementing programs of education in indigenous languages.

The **UNESCO** made a statement, which emphasized the need to support indigenous languages, knowledge, and traditions. It is important to provide indigenous peoples with competencies for them to contribute to the international discussions. The **Rainforest Foundation** asked to perform an evaluation of the progress made by the States in the implementation of UNDRIP, and to analyze the difficulties, so as to enable indigenous peoples' participation in decision-making processes.

Mr. Dmitrii Kharakka-Zaitsev, **expert member**, emphasized the need to foster dialogue with the participation of the various stakeholders. The situation of indigenous peoples requires a different

approach for the implementation of policies and all stakeholders must listen to each other to make better decisions for indigenous peoples.

Friday, 5 May

- Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session

The decisions recommended by the Permanent Forum for adoption by the Economic and Social Council are the following:

1. To conduct a three-day international expert group meeting on the theme "sustainable development in territories of indigenous peoples"
2. The seventeenth session of the UNPFII shall be held at the UN headquarters from 16 to 27 April 2018.
3. The theme discussion of next year's session will be on "indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources".

- Closing of the session

Ms. Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine, Chairperson of the sixteenth session of the Permanent Forum, made a statement, in which she noted the consensus created by the adoption of UNDRIP worldwide and the modification of some national Constitutions accordingly. However, this progress is still too slow in its implementation, and there are not efficient mechanisms at the country level that do involve indigenous representatives. The Permanent Forum is willing to take concrete steps and to work closely with the States to reduce the proportion of indigenous rights defenders whose life are put at risk or who are in jail. It is of great importance to truly implement UNDRIP to guarantee respect for indigenous peoples.

Chief Wilton Littlechild conveyed a spiritual message.

ANNEX I – LIST OF THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE UNPFII

Below is the list of the current Members of the Permanent Forum whose terms 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. Dmitrii KHARAKKA-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. Seyed Moshen EMADI (Iran)

Mr. Jesus Guadalupe FUENTES BLANCO (Mexico)

Mr. Jens DAHL (Denmark)

Mr. Brian KEANE (United States of America)

ANNEX II – LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
COICA	Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin
CONAIE	Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas de Ecuador Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
EMRIP	Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
NHRIs	National Human Rights Institutions
OHCHR	Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRRIP	Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNPFII	United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
UNVFIP	United Nations Voluntary Fund on Indigenous Peoples
WCIP	World Conference on Indigenous Peoples
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WHO	World Health Organization

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of Docip and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

With the support of:

- Samediggi
- City of Geneva
- The European Union



The positions herein expressed are not intended to reflect the views of Docip or its staff, whose mandate includes respect for the principle of neutrality in all of the organization's activities.

For any question related to this note, please contact claire@docip.org.