



**Statement by Malaysia**  
**Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of**  
**indigenous peoples**  
**48<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Human Rights Council**

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Malaysia thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report.

2. The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted Malaysians, economically and socially. Malaysia has assisted minority groups including the indigenous peoples to alleviate these impacts. This includes cash assistance handouts and provision of food baskets.

3. Meanwhile, in reaffirming Malaysia's commitment to ensure access to health services for indigenous peoples, more than one hundred thirty-two thousand indigenous peoples in Peninsular Malaysia had received the COVID-19 vaccination, which is equivalent to 91.7% of the total population of indigenous peoples in Peninsular Malaysia.

4. During the lockdown due to COVID-19 when home-based learning was widely implemented by schools, Malaysia has demonstrated its commitment to ensure that the indigenous children's right to education is not compromised, despite lack of access to internet. During this time, teachers have made efforts to deliver worksheets to indigenous children in remote areas. We are pleased that this has been captured as best practice in the SR's report in closing the technological gap among indigenous communities to provide opportunity to study.

5. Malaysia is ready to share its experience as well as to learn and to adopt best practices from other member states to improve the resilience of indigenous peoples in responding to the pandemic.

6. As a signatory to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007, Malaysia will continue to take steps to align its national policies with international requirements.

Thank you.

**GENEVA**  
**27 September 2021**