



EUROPEAN UNION
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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
51st session

**Annual panel discussion on the rights of Indigenous Peoples: Impact of social
and economic recovery plans in the COVID-19 context
on Indigenous Peoples, with a special focus on food security
28 September 2022
EU Intervention**

Mr. Vice-President,

The EU welcomes today's panel discussion on this timely topic.

The EU is deeply worried about the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current food crisis on Indigenous Peoples, particularly women and girls. Due to their close relationship with land and natural resources, Indigenous Peoples are often at the forefront facing the impacts of the global food insecurity.

However, Indigenous Peoples themselves also possess valuable solutions for tackling global food insecurity. Their close relation with land and natural resources, traditional knowledge and way of life can also teach the rest of us how to tackle climate change, environmental degradation and extreme weather conditions, all connected to food security. Ensuring that the principle of free, prior and informed consent is applied in recovery plans for Indigenous Peoples is thus vital in tackling food insecurity both of Indigenous Peoples and globally.

The EU is committed to take all necessary measures to ensure that Indigenous Peoples, particularly women and girls, are actively participating in, and their concerns are, reflected in COVID-19 and food crisis response plans.

Distinguished panellists, how can States best ensure that the principle of free, prior and informed consent is respected in all COVID-19 recovery plans?

Thank you.