

Item 6. Follow up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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The Anglican Communion is the world's third largest Christian communion, comprised of forty-one provinces across 165 countries representing 85 million members. The Anglican Consultative Council welcomes the theme of the 20th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Indigenous peoples continue to be left behind on social, economic, and political indicators of the 2030 Agenda. The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is dependent on the achievement of peace, justice and inclusion for all, including the full realization of the rights of indigenous peoples. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted indigenous communities disproportionately, particularly women and girls, revealing pre-existing structural inequalities and discrimination. Indigenous communities are among those most left behind in COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts, with these efforts failing to account adequately for the particular vulnerabilities of indigenous communities. For example, due to their remoteness and geographic isolation, many communities have had difficulty in accessing healthcare facilities.

Anglican church leaders have played an important role in the COVID-19 response and provision of pastoral care. Anglican dioceses have used social media as a replacement for in-person gatherings, while others have utilized phone systems to provide support and connection. The Maori Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand has responded to the lockdown by offering online options for fellowship and worship, including Eucharist services and daily morning prayer.

Many indigenous communities live in biologically diverse regions and rely on the natural world as a defining element of identity and culture, as well as a source of sustenance and economic income. As such, they are particularly vulnerable to climate change. In 2020, the Anglican Indigenous Network partnered with the Anglican Communion Environmental Network to release a series of webinars offering Indigenous Anglican perspectives on the environmental emergency and a prophetic vision for a better future. The webinars drew from Aotearoa and Polynesia, Africa, Amazonia and the Arctic. The initiative aimed to share stories on the impact of climate change, uphold traditional knowledge of indigenous communities, identify best practices of climate mitigation and adaptation, and offer a way forward towards climate justice.

The realization of indigenous peoples' rights is imperative to sustaining peace, and must include the elimination of discriminatory laws and practices and ensuring access to justice. This is a right that indigenous people continue to see denied as many national government policies continue to exclude indigenous groups from decision-making on land usage and development priorities without respecting the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent, in the context of a long history of dispossession. Indigenous Anglicans are working to uphold the right to land and protect indigenous communities. Indigenous leaders in the Brazilian Amazon, which is being exploited through mining and burning without community consent, have launched a course for emerging social leaders supported by the Brazilian Anglican province of the Amazon with the help of the Episcopal Diocese of California.

We urge Member States, UN agencies, and civil society to:

1. Accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2030 by protecting and promoting the rights of indigenous peoples, as reflected in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
2. Mandate the inclusion of relevant indicators for indigenous peoples in data collection and review of Agenda 2030, enabling data-disaggregation; engage indigenous communities in data collection; and recognize indigenous identity in national statistics.
3. Ensure indigenous peoples' participation in implementation, follow-up and review of Agenda 2030, national action plans, and voluntary national reviews.
4. Include indigenous people in policy-making and design of resilient and adaptable structures that meet the specific needs of indigenous people, including accessible healthcare institutions, adequate housing and sanitary conditions, and systems of psychological support.
5. Ensure compliance with the rule of law, particularly treaties and international regulations that recognise indigenous peoples' right to land and self-determination, including their right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent.
6. Recognise the positive role of faith communities in combating past sins of colonization and in rebuilding structures for the full realization of indigenous rights, considering them key stakeholders and partners in the achievement of SDG 16 in indigenous communities.
7. Acknowledge the increased vulnerability of indigenous communities to climate change and the importance of traditional knowledge in climate mitigation by including indigenous communities and organizations in the creation of climate-resilient policies.