



United Nations

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

**Report on the twenty-fourth session
(21 April–2 May 2025)**

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions recommended by the Permanent Forum for adoption by the Council

1. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

International expert group meeting on the theme “Recognition of Indigenous Peoples’ rights in the context of the climate crisis, biodiversity governance and territorial integrity: focusing on nomadic and semi-nomadic peoples, including pastoralists and shifting cultivators”

The Economic and Social Council decides to authorize a three-day international expert group meeting on the theme “Recognition of Indigenous Peoples’ rights in the context of the climate crisis, biodiversity governance and territorial integrity: focusing on nomadic and semi-nomadic peoples, including pastoralists and shifting cultivators”.

Draft decision II

Venue and dates of the twenty-fifth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Economic and Social Council decides that the twenty-fifth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues shall be held at United Nations Headquarters from 20 April to 1 May 2026.

Draft decision III

Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its twenty-fourth session and provisional agenda of its twenty-fifth session

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its twenty-fourth session;¹
- (b) Approves the provisional agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the Permanent Forum as set out in document [E/C.19/2025/L.3](#), draft decision III.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum

2. The Permanent Forum has identified the proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action set out below and, through the Council, recommends that States, entities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, Indigenous Peoples, the private sector and non-governmental organizations assist in their realization.
3. It is the understanding of the Permanent Forum that the proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action to be carried out by the United

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2025, Supplement No. 23 (E/2025/43).*

Nations, as set out below, will be implemented to the extent possible within the context of the approved programme of work of the relevant entities.

Discussion on the theme “Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples within United Nations Member States and the United Nations system, including identifying good practices and addressing challenges” (item 3)

4. Gradual progress, characterized by advancements and ongoing challenges, has been made on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Many States have integrated the principles contained in the Declaration into their legal frameworks, promoting self-determination, land rights and cultural heritage protection. These efforts reflect a growing commitment to aligning domestic policies with international standards on Indigenous Peoples’ rights. United Nations initiatives, such as the system-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the Declaration and the call to action of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination set out in “Building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future with Indigenous Peoples: a call to action”, have further advanced the integration of the Declaration into institutional practices, fostering greater coherence and accountability.

5. However, significant barriers persist. Indigenous Peoples often face systemic discrimination, exclusion from decision-making and threats to their lands and territories due to, inter alia, development without free, prior and informed consent, extractive industries, armed conflict and climate change. Free, prior and informed consent is a cornerstone of the Declaration and is frequently disregarded, exacerbating conflict and marginalization. Political will remains uneven, leading to inconsistent implementation and enforcement of the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

6. Addressing these challenges requires stronger political commitment, capacity-building and genuine partnerships with Indigenous Peoples. Enhancing legal protections, ensuring access to justice and incorporating Indigenous knowledge into environmental and development strategies are critical. Good practices, such as participatory governance, culturally appropriate education and inclusive policymaking, offer replicable solutions. Continued advocacy, monitoring and international collaboration are vital to closing the gap between aspiration and reality.

7. The Permanent Forum welcomes the study entitled “Evaluating institutional structures to improve the health and wellness of Indigenous Peoples globally: the Indigenous determinants of health measurement instrument” ([E/C.19/2025/5](#)) and recommends that Member States and United Nations entities adopt the instrument with a view to prioritizing cultural safety, upholding the principles of the Declaration and accurately measuring the Indigenous determinants of health.

8. The Permanent Forum urges all Member States that have not formally recognized Indigenous Peoples within their territories to do so, in law and practice, under the term “Indigenous Peoples”. Recognition must go beyond symbolic acknowledgement and encompass concrete measures to uphold their individual and collective rights in accordance with the Declaration.

9. The Permanent Forum emphasizes the urgent need to fully implement the Declaration across the United Nations. Key recommendations include adopting the Indigenous determinants of health evaluation instrument, increasing Indigenous Peoples’ participation in decision-making and eliminating structural barriers, violence and discrimination, in particular against Indigenous two-spirit peoples. All United Nations reports, mechanisms and processes must fully reflect the experiences and rights of Indigenous two-spirit peoples. Furthermore, the Forum calls for Indigenous

Peoples' rights and self-determination to be recognized in and integrated into national legislation, policies and governance.

10. Member States should acknowledge the critical role of Indigenous Peoples as guardians of their lands and territories; their traditional knowledge must be fully respected in environmental governance, including the protection and use of medicinal plants, such as the coca leaf and peyote, that hold profound religious, cultural and spiritual significance to Indigenous Peoples, and their ecosystems.

Recommendations for Member States

11. The Permanent Forum calls upon the United States of America and all Member States to uphold their commitments to ensuring the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples who require a visa to attend the sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and other relevant meetings, in line with the joint letter of April 2025 from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. In their letter, they highlight the urgent need to facilitate the timely issuance of visas and unimpeded access to venues, with a view to ensuring the meaningful inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in decision-making, as enshrined in articles 18 and 42 of the Declaration, supported by the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant international human rights instruments.

12. The Permanent Forum reiterates its call for Canada and the United States to decommission the Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline, which poses a real and credible threat to the Great Lakes and Indigenous Peoples. Both States must implement the Declaration in connection with Line 5 by respecting the free, prior and informed consent of the affected Indigenous Peoples.

13. The Permanent Forum calls upon India to uphold human rights in conflict-affected Manipur. While noting positive developments, the Forum recommends that India take effective measures to restore peace and normalcy, including by addressing decades of displacement and trauma, and to bring perpetrators of human rights violations to justice. The Forum calls for an immediate cessation of violence and insists that the State adopt peaceful measures to end the conflict.

14. Member States are encouraged to reaffirm their commitment to prevent the use of Indigenous Peoples' resources, lands and territories without free, prior and informed consent and respect the territorial integrity of Indigenous Peoples. The population of Greenland is over 90 per cent Indigenous; hence, the Declaration applies fully, along with national and international law. Member States are called to honour the territorial integrity and political autonomy of Greenland.

15. The Permanent Forum urges the United States to fully implement the Declaration by strengthening commitments to Indigenous leadership, including by seating the delegate of the Cherokee Nation in the House of Representatives. It welcomes the adoption of the Declaration by the Pawnee, Ho-Chunk, Yurok and Muscogee (Creek) Nations.

16. The Permanent Forum urges the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to comply with the articles of the Declaration that have been incorporated into its Constitution, including those on free, prior and informed consent, protecting Indigenous women and ensuring territorial integrity.

Recommendations for the United Nations system

17. The Permanent Forum welcomes the continued commitment and role of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples in enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples within the United Nations system. The Forum notes the

financial difficulties faced by the Fund and encourages Member States and funders to support the Voluntary Fund and the trust fund on Indigenous issues.

18. The Permanent Forum commends the progress made at the intersessional meetings of the Human Rights Council, noting that, at the second intersessional meeting of the Human Rights Council on concrete ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Council, for the first time, Indigenous Peoples from all seven sociocultural regions participated directly. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is invited to share lessons from that process with other United Nations entities. The Forum recommends that the Council, at its fifty-ninth session, establish a separate accreditation status for the representatives and institutions of Indigenous Peoples. The principles of the Declaration should inform the accreditation procedure, with due regard for self-determination, self-identification, equality, non-discrimination and accountability.

19. The Permanent Forum welcomes General Assembly resolution [78/328](#) on enhanced participation and recommends that the Assembly and the Human Rights Council ensure the full and effective involvement of Indigenous Peoples and their representative institutions. It calls upon Member States to financially support the Indigenous Coordinating Body for Enhanced Participation in the United Nations.

20. The Permanent Forum welcomes the establishment of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8 (j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (decision 16/5) and the adoption of the new programme of work related thereto (decision 16/4) at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It urges the operationalization of the decision on the continued prioritization of Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge in implementing the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Forum also acknowledges that the Global Plan of Action on Biodiversity and Health (decision 16/19) draws on the study on the Indigenous determinants of health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([E/C.19/2023/5](#)).

21. Noting the ongoing negotiations in the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of the World Intellectual Property Organization, the Permanent Forum urges States to ensure adequate funding for the participation of Indigenous Peoples and to reach an agreement without delay.

Discussion on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum (economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights), with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (item 4)

22. The Permanent Forum reviewed its six mandated areas (economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights) through the lens of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Speakers highlighted the gap between global pledges and realities, citing land loss, cultural erosion, health inequities and barriers to education and livelihoods. The Forum stresses that full implementation of the Declaration, integrated with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is vital to justice, equity and sustainability for Indigenous Peoples.

23. The Permanent Forum welcomes the study entitled "Impact of colonization and armed conflicts on Indigenous Peoples' rights: the imperative of peacebuilding" ([E/C.19/2025/7](#)) and underscores its relevance to Indigenous Peoples worldwide due to continued oppression, displacement, loss of life and intergenerational trauma resulting from armed conflicts and colonialism.

24. The Permanent Forum endorses the report of the international expert group meeting on the theme “The rights of Indigenous Peoples, including those in voluntary isolation and initial contact in the context of critical minerals” (E/C.19/2025/4). The Forum urges the United Nations system, the private sector and multinational corporations to collaborate on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report. Addressing the rights of Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact is vital and States must take urgent action to comply with these recommendations.

Recommendations for the United Nations system

25. States should operationalize the Declaration by reviewing and reforming internal administrative boundaries that divide Indigenous Peoples’ territories, ensuring respect for their territorial integrity. United Nations entities should integrate Indigenous Peoples’ territorial realities into data systems, peacebuilding, development and humanitarian efforts to avoid reliance on State-centric boundaries that overlook Indigenous geographies.

26. The Permanent Forum urges United Nations entities, States and partners to fund and support effective youth participation in all relevant United Nations forums. Sufficient financing will better enable Indigenous youth to shape a sustainable future.

27. United Nations Ocean Conferences should ensure the effective engagement of Indigenous Peoples, as exemplified in decision 16/19 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2024, in which the Indigenous determinants of health framework was incorporated.

28. The Coalition on Indigenous Peoples’ Food Systems is critical for Indigenous-led food sovereignty. The Permanent Forum calls upon States and United Nations entities to provide funding for the Coalition.

29. The Permanent Forum commends the World Health Organization (WHO), including its regional offices, for advancing the recognition of Indigenous Peoples’ traditional medicine and midwifery. However, some regional offices, particularly the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), utilize the concept of interculturality, which predates the Declaration, to conflate rights holders with stakeholders in the implementation of initiatives, undermining Indigenous Peoples’ autonomy and self-determination and compliance with the principle of free, prior and informed consent. The Forum calls upon PAHO and any regional offices using this approach to halt this conflation and to address Indigenous issues separately from those of stakeholders. WHO, PAHO and Member States should also recognize Indigenous midwifery as an autonomous ancestral practice and a critical Indigenous determinant of health, decriminalize Indigenous-recognized traditional midwifery, finance Indigenous-led maternal care, integrate Indigenous-recognized midwifery into national health policies, and fully respect Indigenous Peoples’ distinct rights.

30. The Permanent Forum calls upon the World Tourism Organization, the World Bank and the World Health Organization to develop a framework for monitoring and reporting on the impact of tourism on Indigenous Peoples by 2026, including data disaggregation.

Recommendations for Member States

31. The Permanent Forum urges States that have not yet done so to ratify Convention No. 169 of the International Labour Organization and to take concrete measures to fully implement the Declaration.

32. The Permanent Forum commends Ecuador for its openness in engaging with the Forum. The Forum encourages Ecuador to implement the rulings of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of 2012 regarding the Kichwa people of Sarayaku and of 2025 regarding the Tagaeri and Taromenane peoples living in voluntary isolation. The Forum is concerned by the need to urgently clear territories affected by explosive ordnance. The Forum is also concerned by reports of criminalization of Indigenous leaders in Ecuador. The Forum invites Ecuador to report on the progress made in relation to the implementation of these rulings and other positive developments at its twenty-fifth session. The Forum also urges Ecuador to adopt the draft national law on free, prior and informed consent, currently under debate in the National Assembly, and developed with the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples.

33. Nicaragua must respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Moskitia region (La Mosquitia) and cease militarization and criminalization with respect to their lands and territories. In line with the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, Nicaragua should immediately release arbitrarily detained Indigenous leaders and defenders and take measures to clarify the fate and whereabouts of those subjected to enforced disappearance.

34. Iraq should secure self-identified Indigenous Peoples' rights to their lands, territories, cultures and self-governance, guaranteeing free, prior and informed consent and respecting their right to self-identification.

35. The Permanent Forum commends Peru for its contributions to the international recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights, including in the development and adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. However, the Forum is concerned about recent legislation in Peru, namely Law No. 32301 amending the law on the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation. The Forum has been informed by Indigenous Peoples that this new amendment risks criminalizing Indigenous human rights defenders for their advocacy and risks granting immunity for serious human rights violations. The Forum recommends that Peru review its legislation and ensure that implementation thereof aligns with its human rights obligations, including freedom of expression and association, which are particularly vital for Indigenous Peoples to enjoy their rights under the Declaration. The Forum encourages Peru to protect Indigenous human rights defenders and to engage in meaningful, transparent consultations with representatives of Indigenous Peoples and their institutions when enacting any legislation affecting their rights and adopting regulations to implement those laws. Peru should implement laws to avoid legislation being used to foster impunity for crimes against humanity committed against Indigenous human rights defenders.

36. The Permanent Forum noted the draft federal law on the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation and calls upon the Russian Federation to take Indigenous Peoples' language rights into consideration.

Dialogue with the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes (item 5 (c))

37. The Permanent Forum heard from United Nations entities about their activities to implement the system-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and progress on implementing the Forum's recommendations. United Nations entities also shared concerns about the impact of significant budget cuts and pushback on upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the invisibility of Indigenous Peoples in data.

38. The Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues outlined an accountability framework involving United Nations resident coordinators to assess successes and challenges in implementing the Declaration. The Permanent Forum welcomes this initiative and urges the United Nations to ensure that this process is implemented, including in Member States that withhold recognition of Indigenous Peoples.

39. United Nations entities recommended that Indigenous Peoples strengthen advocacy and engagement at the national level, including with parliamentarians, financial mechanisms, plans and programmes. The Permanent Forum acknowledges the opportunity to engage on and promote Indigenous Peoples' rights in the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Committee on World Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in discussions on ultraprocessed food and the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

40. United Nations entities are urged to strengthen and facilitate Indigenous women's and young people's engagement in decision-making across the United Nations, enhancing capacity-building, knowledge exchange, and advisory roles.

41. Many United Nations treaty negotiations – such as the WHO Pandemic Agreement – lacked Indigenous Peoples' meaningful participation. The Permanent Forum urges States to strengthen Indigenous Peoples' effective engagement when deciding on participation modalities in ongoing and future United Nations treaty negotiations.

42. The Permanent Forum expresses concern over the current implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, where reliance on State and non-State intermediaries and on efforts designed by States continues to marginalize Indigenous Peoples whose lands and territories are central to restoration efforts. The Forum calls upon the United Nations Environment Programme to fulfil the Decade's transformative promise by ensuring the recognition of Indigenous Peoples as rights holders and ecological stewards, ensuring direct access to finance and embedding their leadership in the next five-year strategic plans in the mechanisms supporting Indigenous-led restoration.

43. United Nations entities should ensure the inclusion, equality and equity of Indigenous Peoples in humanitarian responses.

44. The Permanent Forum urges WHO to establish a standing Indigenous-led advisory committee to the Director General regarding Indigenous Peoples' health to steer, monitor and report annually on the implementation and ongoing operationalization of World Health Assembly resolution 76.16. The committee should be majority-Indigenous, gender-balanced, regionally diverse, and chosen through Indigenous representative institutions, in line with free, prior and informed consent.

Human rights dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; annual review of progress on the implementation of general recommendation No. 39 (2022) (item 5 (d))

45. The dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples highlighted recent developments and challenges related to Indigenous Peoples' rights. The Permanent Forum welcomes the two mechanisms' thematic focus on the right of Indigenous Peoples to determine their identity, the need for a clear distinction between Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the criminalization of Indigenous Peoples

and the encroachment upon their territories by criminal gangs and extractive industries.

46. Collaboration between the Indigenous Peoples' mechanisms, the United Nations treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council special procedures can be mutually reinforcing to advance the recognition and protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights. Such engagements should be not mere procedural exercises (so-called "rights ritualism") but aimed at concrete outcomes.

47. The Permanent Forum looks forward to the finalization of the study of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on "Indigenous People's right to data, including data collection and disaggregation". In addition, the Forum is concerned that the underfunding of the United Nations human rights system seriously limits the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in discharging their mandates.

48. The Permanent Forum welcomes the preparation of the forthcoming study on Indigenous justice systems by the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers and invites her to present it to the Forum at its twenty-fifth session.

Recommendations for Member States

49. The Permanent Forum commends the progress of numerous States in recognizing Indigenous Peoples and their rights in constitutional reforms to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including on free, prior and informed consent legislation. Several countries spoke with pride of their policies of non-discrimination and equal access to public services. Still, some countries stopped short of engaging in meaningful discussions on the right to self-identification. The Forum recommends that States initiate dialogues on identity and non-discrimination with Indigenous Peoples concerned.

50. Truth-telling is a prerequisite for reconciliation; it helps to build new constructive arrangements and treaties between Indigenous Peoples and States. States and Indigenous Peoples are invited to initiate and support studies to document internal colonialism cases predating, coinciding with and surviving external colonialism. Those studies can offer policy guidance for dismantling such structures and restoring Indigenous Peoples' self-governance. States and Indigenous Peoples are encouraged to contribute to debates on ways in which the United Nations system can redress and mediate the situations of internal colonialism at future sessions of the Permanent Forum.

51. The lack of disaggregated data hides the realities confronting Indigenous Peoples and prohibits efforts to redress the inequalities and discrimination suffered and devise effective targeted measures. This problem can be exacerbated when Indigenous Peoples are not recognized. States should develop and operationalize comprehensive, rights-based disaggregated data frameworks in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples.

52. Several speakers emphasized the role of Indigenous women in peacebuilding. States are called upon to ensure Indigenous women's participation in peace negotiations and peacebuilding. Although adversely affected by armed conflict and violence, the role of Indigenous Peoples in conflict resolution and peacebuilding is largely ignored. States are encouraged to ensure the inclusion and participation of Indigenous Peoples in ongoing peacemaking processes and to fulfil the agreements achieved with the participation of Indigenous Peoples. The Permanent Forum reiterates previous calls upon Bangladesh to ensure effective progress on implementing the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord of 1997.

53. The Permanent Forum heard testimonies on the many barriers in access to justice for Indigenous Peoples. It is deeply concerned about the disproportionate incarceration rates of Indigenous Peoples, especially children. States are urged to implement the internationally recommended age of criminal responsibility of at least 14 years. States must uphold the Convention on the Rights of the Child, under which incarceration must be a measure of last resort. The Forum condemns States' violations of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Forum calls upon States to remove existing barriers, ensure culturally appropriate access to justice and prevent the overcriminalization of Indigenous Peoples.

54. The Permanent Forum takes note of the efforts of Chile to promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples through the Presidential Commission for Peace and Understanding. The Forum invites Chile to implement general recommendation No. 39 (2022) by adopting the necessary legislation and public policies. It also urges Chile to replicate these positive developments with other Indigenous Peoples in its territory and to present progress to the Forum at its twenty-fifth session.

55. The Permanent Forum calls upon Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and the Sudan to promptly end violence against Indigenous Peoples, particularly Indigenous women and children, in the context of armed conflict, counter-terrorism and mining activities. Any peace process must involve Indigenous Peoples, in line with General Assembly resolution [79/159](#).

56. The Permanent Forum heard about the retreat of New Zealand/Aotearoa from honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi), which sparked the country's largest-ever protest. The Forum calls upon New Zealand to recommit to the Treaty.

57. The disproportionate impact of Russian aggression against Ukraine on Indigenous Peoples in the region includes conscription, mass displacement and attacks on identity, violating their individual and collective rights. In occupied Crimea, Indigenous women are persecuted and detained for defending human rights. The Permanent Forum calls upon the Russian Federation to engage in constructive negotiations to achieve just and durable peace.

58. Following the recent coup in Myanmar, political instability persists, with planned military-led elections widely seen as a means to entrench power rather than restore democracy. Ongoing air strikes, even amid a 7.7 magnitude earthquake, highlight the crisis. The Human Rights Council and relevant mechanisms are urged to strengthen protection measures and establish more robust, locally grounded human rights monitoring for Indigenous Peoples facing violence and displacement.

Interregional, intergenerational and global dialogue (item 5 (e))

59. The Permanent Forum held an interregional, intergenerational and global dialogue on the theme "The rights of Indigenous women". The Forum extends its appreciation to the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, Lena Estrada Añokazi, for her participation during the twenty-fourth session.

60. The systemic challenges that Indigenous women and girls experience include gender-based violence, marginalization, discrimination and violations of their sexual and reproductive health rights. Indigenous women who advocate for their individual and collective rights also face retaliation. The Permanent Forum heard testimonies asserting that Indigenous women had been imprisoned for organizing peaceful events, even on International Women's Day.

61. Indigenous women continue to face intersectional forms of discrimination and systemic racism. The Permanent Forum urges States to promote the leadership of

Indigenous women in order to address contemporary intersectional discrimination and intergenerational and historical trauma, including for those living outside their ancestral homelands.

62. Despite facing immense adversity, Indigenous women continue to be resilient advocates. They call upon Member States to uphold their international commitments to gender equality and to prioritize the inclusion of Indigenous women in decision-making on development policies and programmes.

Global Indigenous women's rights movement

63. Thirty years ago, Indigenous women delegates at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing made a historic promise: never again would Indigenous women return to advocate at the United Nations alone.

64. The unity of Indigenous women is exemplified through three decades of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas – a coalition of 26 national Indigenous women's organizations across 23 countries – and 25 years of the International Indigenous Women's Forum. These organizations have played a crucial role in establishing and transforming international platforms, including the Permanent Forum, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

65. Indigenous women have played an invaluable role in shaping global standards, notably through the adoption by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women of its general recommendation No. 39 (2022) on the rights of Indigenous women and girls. The Permanent Forum had called upon the Commission on the Status of Women to prioritize gender equality and the empowerment of Indigenous women and girls as an emerging theme within its multi-year programme of work.

66. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women must guarantee equal access and non-discrimination of Indigenous women in respect of its communications procedure under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. States are encouraged to report annually on their progress in implementing general recommendation No. 39.

67. The Permanent Forum urges the representatives and institutions of Indigenous Peoples to submit candidates, especially Indigenous women, for the Working Group on Business and Human Rights of the Human Rights Council. It also encourages the Forum on Business and Human Rights to establish an ad hoc committee for Indigenous Peoples during the nineteenth cycle of the Human Rights Council. The Permanent Forum invites relevant mechanisms of the Human Rights Council to devote attention in their reports to the situation of Indigenous women and children.

68. States must ensure equitable and direct access to funding for Indigenous women's organizations, with a view to enhancing their participation and leadership in decision-making processes.

69. The Permanent Forum acknowledges the commitment by Australia to develop a national action plan to address violence against Indigenous women and children – a milestone championed by Indigenous women. The Forum urges Australia to meet that commitment and provide sufficient resources to implement the plan and calls upon other States to adopt similar strategies.

Indigenous children and the health of Indigenous women

70. Reports of Indigenous children being forcibly removed from their mothers by State agencies evoke painful parallels with discriminatory assimilationist laws of the

past. The high rates of child removal by welfare systems are alarming and are often justified through processes that fail to account for the unique cultural contexts of Indigenous Peoples.

71. Forced sterilizations and coerced contraception campaigns are serious violations of reproductive health rights, disproportionately targeting Indigenous women and adolescents worldwide. These practices often stem from systemic racism, colonial ideologies and attempts to control population growth. States must adopt a human rights-based approach to investigate and address these practices. In addition, the Human Rights Council, at its fifty-ninth session, is urged to establish a commission of inquiry – grounded in free, prior and informed consent and Indigenous-run health systems – to document the global impact of such practices.

72. Recognizing the dangers of mercury and other harmful contaminants in the context of extractive industries, the Permanent Forum urges States to implement comprehensive monitoring and regulation of toxic contaminants on the lands and territories of Indigenous Peoples, including the restoration of sites and water resources that have been affected. It highlights the urgent need to address the severe impact on the health of Indigenous women and children, including neurological damage from prenatal or dietary exposure, and calls for effective interventions and remediation from health and environmental impacts.

Armed conflict and military occupation

73. Indigenous women and children are disproportionately affected by military occupation and armed conflict, which result in, among other things, forced displacement, gender-based violence, trafficking in persons, sexual violence, forced marriage and abduction. These actions are prohibited under international humanitarian and human rights law, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Permanent Forum calls for the United Nations system, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the humanitarian aid sector to ensure that targeted assistance is offered to Indigenous Peoples. The Forum also urges Member States to end impunity and prosecute perpetrators.

Dialogue on Indigenous platforms established within United Nations entities (item 5 (f))

74. There has been growing recognition of the need for formal United Nations mechanisms that ensure Indigenous Peoples' meaningful participation in global governance. These platforms must respect Indigenous Peoples' rights, governance, and decision-making bodies, systems and institutions. The Permanent Forum will continue to advise States, Indigenous Peoples and United Nations entities to strengthen Indigenous Peoples' roles in multilateral processes.

75. The Permanent Forum heard from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat to the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform; the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa regarding the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus; the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding the newly established permanent subsidiary body on article 8 (j); the International Fund for Agricultural Development secretariat regarding the Indigenous Peoples' Forum; and the Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems hosted by the World Food Programme.

76. The Permanent Forum strongly encourages United Nations entities to engage directly with Indigenous Peoples where applicable, including at the national and local

levels, even in countries where Indigenous Peoples are not officially recognized. This approach aligns with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the right to self-identification and can ensure that programmes are inclusive, culturally appropriate and responsive to Indigenous Peoples' needs.

77. The Permanent Forum urges all United Nations entities to institutionalize engagement with Indigenous Peoples in high-level events. The Forum also encourages the Conferences of the Parties to the Rio conventions to invite the Forum to participate in negotiations in its capacity as an advisory body within the United Nations system.

78. The Permanent Forum urges Member States, and the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat's permanent subsidiary body on article 8 (j), in its new work programme, to include Indigenous Peoples' leadership at all levels, including as Co-Chairs, working group leads, expert groups and Bureau members from the seven sociocultural regions. The Forum reiterates its call upon United Nations entities and the Parties to biodiversity and climate agreements to recognize the distinct identities and specific rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Forum encourages the use of accurate and differentiated terminology and recommends avoiding the combined or interchangeable use of the terms "Indigenous Peoples" and "local communities" as a single category.

79. The Permanent Forum calls upon Mongolia, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Convention to Combat Desertification secretariat to ensure the meaningful participation of representatives of Indigenous pastoralists in the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralism (General Assembly resolution [76/253](#)) and in all related events and processes. Adequate and sustained funding must be secured for Indigenous Peoples' participation.

80. The Permanent Forum takes note with appreciation of the Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge of the World Intellectual Property Organization for the benefit of Indigenous Peoples. It urges Member States to sign, ratify and implement the Treaty, which contains measures to protect against biopiracy, includes Indigenous Peoples' full and effective participation in the Assembly of the Contracting Parties to the Treaty and acknowledges States' commitments to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Thematic dialogue on the financing of Indigenous Peoples' work and participation across the multilateral and regional system (item 5 (g))

81. The extraction of critical minerals, which is essential for the global transition to renewable energy, has far-reaching implications for Indigenous Peoples, whose lands and territories are often rich in these vital resources. While crucial to addressing climate change, unregulated or exploitative extraction risks repeating historical injustices and endangering Indigenous Peoples' rights, ecosystems and ways of life. Indigenous Peoples must be recognized as rights holders and essential partners in building a just and sustainable future, and not as barriers to development.

82. Indigenous Peoples continue to face systemic obstacles to accessing financial resources that would enable them to participate fully in policy processes. Funding often bypasses Indigenous Peoples, undermining their governance and self-determination. Financial institutions and global actors must establish equitable, direct and accessible funding mechanisms aligned with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous leadership and participation are critical to advancing climate action, biodiversity protection and inclusive sustainable development.

Critical minerals

83. Existing mining standards and initiatives must never substitute for legal obligations that ensure social and environmental safeguards. Extractive industries should be required to restore mining sites.

84. States should align legal frameworks with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the Indigenous Peoples Principles and Protocols for Just Transition² and the recommendations of the United Nations Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals regarding extractive activities, environmental protection, human rights and Indigenous Peoples' collective and individual rights.

85. States, mining companies and financial institutions must uphold the right of Indigenous Peoples to free, prior and informed consent, including the option to reject proposed projects that would affect their lands and territories. The representation and participation of Indigenous Peoples must be gender-balanced; and their self-determination and self-governance structures must be respected. Special protection must be afforded to Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact, in accordance with the Declaration and existing human rights standards, including respect for precautionary and no-contact principles.

86. States, mining companies and financial institutions should ensure the establishment of accessible, independent and culturally appropriate grievance and redress mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples that should be available throughout the life cycle of the projects. These sectors should support sustainable development, track the origin and impacts of minerals throughout the supply chain and disclose human rights risks and environmental impacts.

87. States are urged to take necessary measures where appropriate to ensure the rights, protection and safety of Indigenous leaders and human rights defenders and to promote a safe and enabling environment in which human rights violations, killings, reprisals and abuses against or related to them are prevented and investigated, the perpetrators are held accountable and access to justice and remedy are ensured, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 79/159. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and States should ensure the meaningful inclusion of Indigenous Peoples when developing strategies to prevent and combat environmental and other crimes. This includes supporting capacity-building for the documentation and reporting of alleged crimes, Indigenous-led monitoring, and accountability and reparations for environmental harm on Indigenous lands and territories. Indigenous Peoples are encouraged to participate in and contribute to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

88. States should establish a buffer zone around Indigenous Peoples' lands and territories to protect their rights and resources from the impacts of extractive activities, including those involving critical minerals. This will protect the lives and ecosystems of Indigenous Peoples and is vital for biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation.

89. States must immediately halt mining projects in Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Russian Federation and Sweden and other projects violating the right of Indigenous Peoples to free, prior and informed consent. Furthermore, States should align their legislation with the Declaration, ensuring that companies are liable for human rights violations committed overseas.

² Available at www.indigenoussummit.org/summit-outcome.

90. It is recommended that the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury conduct a comprehensive assessment of mercury emissions and releases, in particular from gold mining and processing activities that use mercury. The report on the assessment should contain a specific examination of the effects of such emissions on ecosystems, livelihoods, culture and the health of Indigenous Peoples.

91. The intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, should guarantee the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples in all negotiations; their rights under the Declaration should be respected, and their knowledge systems incorporated into the instrument.

Financing

92. To address global challenges, Indigenous Peoples must be urgently included in financial architecture reform. Multilateral development banks should develop policies that ensure direct access to financing for Indigenous Peoples, in particular for Indigenous women and young people.

93. All Parties and stakeholders to the Rio conventions should implement the principles and guidelines for direct access funding for Indigenous Peoples' climate action, biodiversity conservation and fighting desertification for a sustainable planet.³ The vision of the initiative that led to the drafting of the principles and guidelines is to establish a permanent, independent, Indigenous-led global fund to support coordination, knowledge-sharing and advocacy globally, advancing biodiversity conservation, climate action and the protection of life.

94. The Green Climate Fund, the Cali Fund for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, the Tropical Forest Forever Facility and the Adaptation Fund should ensure direct access to finance in support of Indigenous-led mitigation and adaptation projects and ensure the representation and participation of Indigenous Peoples in their governing bodies.

95. Indigenous Peoples are encouraged to participate in the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development. States should explicitly reference issues of relevance to Indigenous Peoples, including direct access to financing and partnership with Indigenous Peoples, in the outcome document of the Conference.

Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council, the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and emerging issues (item 6)

96. The Permanent Forum welcomes the request for the President of the General Assembly, through Assembly resolution 79/159, to convene a high-level panel to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2027. The meeting should be entitled "Second World Conference on Indigenous Peoples" and should serve to review the implementation of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples of 2014 and recent developments pertaining to the rights of Indigenous Peoples. The enhanced participation of Indigenous Peoples in the event must be ensured. The Forum urges United Nations entities, financial partners and others to support Indigenous Peoples in organizing the preparatory meetings for the high-level event.

97. The Permanent Forum reiterates the recommendations of its eighteenth session and urges the Secretary-General to appoint a special envoy or special adviser, in consultation with Indigenous Peoples, to raise awareness of and promote the rights of

³ Available at <https://bit.ly/3Gz5PCu>.

Indigenous Peoples and to provide support in the follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference.

98. The Permanent Forum notes that Indigenous Peoples have long struggled to have their voices heard at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and other venues. The Secretary General's UN80 Initiative, under which all United Nations activities and the current liquidity crisis are being reviewed, should not result in the diminished participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives at the United Nations; rather, it should serve as an opportunity to enhance the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, including by finalizing the processes outlined in General Assembly resolution [71/321](#).

99. The Permanent Forum supports the convening of a fourth seminar on treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and Indigenous Peoples, to be organized in conjunction with the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

100. The Permanent Forum welcomes the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in General Assembly resolution [78/327](#) and requests that States ensure their effective and meaningful participation throughout the preparatory processes leading up to the United Nations Water Conferences of 2026 and 2028. This includes facilitating the registration of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and representatives, promoting full engagement in all process stages and adopting an approach aligned with the Declaration.

101. The Permanent Forum urges the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, ahead of its World Conservation Congress of 2025, to reaffirm Indigenous Peoples' inherent rights to their lands and territories in accordance with the Declaration, including where these overlap with protected areas. The Forum rejects conservation models that undermine Indigenous Peoples' governance and customary law.

102. The Permanent Forum recognizes the practical difficulties of organizing its sessions in New York due to barriers to participation faced by Indigenous Peoples. In line with Economic and Social Council resolution [2000/22](#), it will consider alternate venues.

103. The Permanent Forum requests that Member States donate to the trust fund on Indigenous issues, which is managed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The fund provides crucial support to the Forum and its follow-up on recommendations to fully implement the Declaration.

104. The Permanent Forum welcomes the initiative of Mexico to hold an expert seminar in August 2025 to explore best practices for implementing the Declaration.

105. Artificial intelligence poses challenges and opportunities for Indigenous Peoples. The Permanent Forum recommends that United Nations entities involved in developing, governing and applying artificial intelligence and digital technologies ensure the meaningful inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in the entities' processes for the benefit of Indigenous Peoples. The Forum offers assistance in identifying experts in artificial intelligence and in Indigenous Peoples' rights.

106. The Permanent Forum decided to comprehensively assess its work to improve and strengthen the Forum's effectiveness. It will be carried out at no cost by a volunteer group of current Forum members, who can invite former members from the seven sociocultural regions to make contributions. The Forum will report on this process at its twenty-fifth session.

107. The Permanent Forum decided to conduct four studies and to present them at its twenty-fifth session.

Chapter II

Venue, dates and proceedings of the session

108. By its decision 2024/333, the Economic and Social Council decided that the twenty-fourth session of the Permanent Forum would be held at United Nations Headquarters from 21 April to 2 May 2025.

109. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 21 and 22 April, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 5 (e), entitled “Interregional, intergenerational and global dialogue”. At its 15th meeting, on 2 May, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

110. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 22 April, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 3, entitled “Discussion on the theme ‘Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples within United Nations Member States and the United Nations system, including identifying good practices and addressing challenges’”. At its 15th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

111. At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 23 April, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 5 (g), entitled “Thematic dialogue on the financing of Indigenous Peoples’ work and participation across the multilateral and regional system”. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it two notes by the Secretariat, entitled “International financial architecture and the rights of Indigenous Peoples” (E/C.19/2025/3) and “The rights of Indigenous Peoples in the context of critical minerals to ensure a just transition” (E/C.19/2025/6). At its 15th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

112. At its 7th meeting, on 24 April, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 5 (a), entitled “Dialogue with Indigenous Peoples”. At its 15th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations on all items.

113. At its 8th and 9th meetings, on 25 April, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 4, entitled “Discussion on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum (economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights), with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it four notes by the Secretariat, transmitting two reports, entitled “System-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: implementation by the United Nations system” (E/C.19/2025/2) and “International expert group meeting on the theme ‘The rights of Indigenous Peoples, including those in voluntary isolation and initial contact in the context of critical minerals’” (E/C.19/2025/4), and two studies, entitled “Evaluating institutional structures to improve the health and wellness of Indigenous Peoples globally: the Indigenous determinants of health measurement instrument” (E/C.19/2025/5) and “Impact of colonization and armed conflicts on Indigenous Peoples’ rights: the imperative of peacebuilding” (E/C.19/2025/7). At its 15th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

114. At its 10th and 11th meetings, on 28 April, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 5 (d), entitled “Human rights dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; annual review of progress on the implementation of general

recommendation No. 39 (2022)”. At its 15th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

115. At its 12th meeting, on 29 April, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 5 (f), entitled “Dialogue on Indigenous platforms established within United Nations entities”. At its 15th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

116. At its 13th meeting, on 30 April, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 5 (c), entitled “Dialogue with the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes”. At its 15th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

117. At its 14th meeting, on 30 April, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 5 (b), entitled “Dialogue with Member States”. At its 15th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations on all items.

118. Also at its 14th meeting, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 6, entitled “Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council, the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and emerging issues”. At its 15th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

119. At three informal closed meetings, on 29 April and 1 and 2 May, the Permanent Forum met to hold internal discussions.

Chapter III

Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its twenty-fourth session

120. At the 15th meeting, the Rapporteur introduced the draft decisions and recommendations and the draft report of the Permanent Forum on its twenty-fourth session.

121. At the same meeting, the Permanent Forum adopted its draft report.

Chapter IV

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

122. The Permanent Forum held its twenty-fourth session at United Nations Headquarters from 21 April to 2 May 2025. It held 15 formal meetings, including 3 closed meetings, and 3 informal closed meetings, to consider the items on its agenda.

123. At the 1st meeting, on 21 April, the session was opened by the temporary Chair, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. At the opening ceremony, the traditional Chief of the Onondaga Nation, Tadodaho Sid Hill, delivered a welcoming address.

124. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Vice-President of the General Assembly, the Minister for Environment of Colombia and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

B. Attendance

125. Members of the Permanent Forum and representatives of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and bodies, United Nations entities and non-governmental and Indigenous organizations attended the session. The list of participants will be issued as document [E/C.19/2025/INF/1](#).

C. Election of officers

126. At its 1st meeting, the Permanent Forum elected the following members of the Bureau by acclamation:

Chair:

Aluki Kotierk

Vice-Chairs:

Hannah McGlade

Naw Ei Ei Min

Rodrigo Eduardo Paillalef Monnard

Geoffrey Roth

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim

Rapporteur:

Suleiman Mamutov

D. Agenda

127. At its 1st meeting, the Permanent Forum adopted the provisional agenda contained in document [E/C.19/2025/1](#).

E. Documentation

128. The list of the documents before the Permanent Forum at its twenty-fourth session is available at <https://social.desa.un.org/issues/indigenous-peoples/unpfii/24th-session>.

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