

**Statement of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

Discussion on theme “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: The Role of Indigenous Peoples in Implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16”

20 April 2021

The UK Government is fully committed to promoting and protecting human rights for all individuals, including indigenous people, without discrimination on any grounds. We continue to work overseas and through international institutions such as the United Nations to improve the situation of indigenous people around the world. In 2007, the UK supported the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We recognise that climate change can undermine the enjoyment of human rights. Climate change should not detract from States’ obligations to uphold the human rights of everyone, including Indigenous People. Indigenous Peoples are often marginalised and are disproportionately impacted by climate change, but are also critical agents of change and leaders within the climate response.

In our COP26 Presidency, we will amplify the voices of those whose views are often most marginalised, empowering their voices and solutions as decision-makers, advocates and leaders.

The recognition and affirmation of the rights of Indigenous Peoples in climate action is crucial. We engage regularly with Indigenous leaders to integrate their perspectives into COP26 planning. We also welcome the COP25 work plan on the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples platform.

The UK would like to understand how Parties aim to uphold sustained and meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples throughout their climate policy-making.