

Recommendations of the PFII to the IASG and members

2021 Session of the Forum

13. The Permanent Forum commits to facilitating informal online regional dialogues between Member States and indigenous peoples on autonomy and self-governance to support the development of guiding principles for the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples to autonomy and self-government. The Permanent Forum invites the **Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous People's Issues** to participate in the organization of these regional dialogues and in the preparation of a discussion paper on this matter to be presented at the twenty-first session of the Forum. The Permanent Forum also invites the cooperation of the Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples to encourage the active participation of Member States in this endeavour.

26. The Permanent Forum recalls its invitation to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) to initiate a general comment on the collective rights of indigenous peoples to lands, territories and natural resources. The Permanent Forum welcomes the decision of the CESCR to draft a general comment on Land and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. However, the Permanent Forum expresses its concern with the limited participation of Indigenous Peoples in drafting the general comment and invites the CESCR to consider facilitating participation of Indigenous peoples. **The Permanent Forum invites the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples** to provide support in this regard.

30. Given increased violence against indigenous peoples in the Amazon region, the Permanent Forum urges the Member States of the region to take urgent, extraordinary and coordinated measures to protect the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples, with the aim of maintaining their ownership and use of their territories. The Forum also calls upon the United Nations system and specialized agencies, including **OHCHR, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and ILO**, to support Member States in the protection of indigenous peoples' habitats and cultures in the Amazon region in cooperation with indigenous peoples.

31. The Permanent Forum recommends that all indigenous peoples make use, whenever appropriate, of the early warning measures and urgent procedures established by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. These early warning measures and procedures are aimed at preventing existing situations from escalating into conflicts and respond to problems requiring immediate attention to prevent or limit the scale or number of serious violations of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Forum also recommends that the Committee's Working Group on Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedures urgently address the serious human rights violations and the criminalization of indigenous peoples in the Amazon in

order for the Committee to take effective measures.

32. Member States must urgently address violence against indigenous peoples, including State violence, gender-based violence, forced assimilation and forced child removals, discrimination in the justice system and other forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on gender, religion, disability, age and LGBTIQ identity. The **Forum encourages the Expert Mechanism**, at its earliest convenience, to engage with the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, and with the participation of indigenous peoples, regarding the removal of indigenous children.

33. The Permanent Forum invites the **secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** to share information, at its twenty-first session, in 2022, regarding the progress made in incorporating the rights of indigenous women into the work of the Committee. It also invites States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms Discrimination against Women to incorporate specific rights-based indicators and information on indigenous peoples, in particular indigenous women, in their periodic progress reports on the implementation of the Convention.

34. The Permanent Forum recommends that **the Human Rights Council** mandate the **United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**, with the contribution of the **United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples**, to undertake a study on incarceration, deaths in custody and indigenous peoples.

41. The Permanent Forum recommends that the **United Nations and United Nations system organizations ensure the effective participation of indigenous peoples at the Food Systems Summit** in 2021, as well as at all the related processes conducted in advance thereof and thereafter, including the pre-summit to be held in Italy from 19 to 21 July 2021. The food systems of indigenous peoples support sustainability and care for the environment and generate healthy foods important for the eradication of hunger and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

57. The Permanent Forum urges Member States, the United Nations system and private philanthropic institutions to fund activities for the implementation of the global action plan and **invites UNESCO**, as the lead agency for the commemoration of the International Decade, to prioritize projects led by indigenous peoples. Languages on the brink of extinction must be afforded particular attention.

58. The Permanent Forum **invites UNESCO** to create, in cooperation with academic institutions and indigenous peoples' institutions, a universal digital platform in which digital resources for indigenous languages can be created, stored and made available to indigenous peoples and researchers in

order to preserve linguistic diversity.

62. Acknowledging the normative work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Permanent Forum **recommends that Member States and WIPO** ensure protection against the misappropriation of the intellectual property of indigenous peoples. Member States must also enact laws and adopt policies and mechanisms to protect indigenous peoples' intellectual property from misappropriation, including the wrongful use of their cultural heritage and traditional knowledge (including traditional knowledge of nature) and traditional cultural expressions (such as oral traditions, rites, literatures, graphic designs, textile designs, traditional sports and games, and visual and performing arts) and the manifestation of indigenous science and technology (including human and genetic resources, seeds and medicines).

66. The Permanent Forum urges States and bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including the **United Nations Environment Programme** and the **United Nations Environment Assembly**, to include indigenous peoples in a fully meaningful and effective manner in decision-making processes in all areas aimed at tackling marine litter and plastic pollution, and landscape/ecosystem degradation, including in programmes and partnerships and in the future negotiations of international instruments. Such efforts should include recognition of the traditional knowledge, practices and innovations of indigenous peoples, in particular indigenous women, in plans and actions to restore landscapes and ecosystems and to address marine litter and plastic pollution.

68. The Forum urgently recommends that **PAHO and WHO** in cooperation with the Permanent Forum and other relevant entities, create a Permanent Working Group to evaluate the ongoing situation of PIACI, and to design, promote and discuss with governments and other institutions, the implementation of urgent measures for the protection of Indigenous Peoples Living in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact.

69. The Permanent Forum welcomes the launch of online courses on Indigenous Peoples' rights by Columbia University, OHCHR, Tribal Link Foundation, UNDP and Universidad Indígena Intercultural of FILAC and recommends to academia, Indigenous and other organizations and the **UN system** to seek ways to provide access to these courses to Indigenous Peoples living in remote areas without internet or digital devices.

73. The Permanent Forum recalls that over 10 years ago, the International Fund for Agricultural Development established an Indigenous Forum, which the Permanent has repeatedly recognized as a good practice and recommended that other UN entities should follow. However, despite these recommendations, other UN entities have not done so, with the notable exception of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform of the UNFCCC. The Permanent Forum reiterates its **recommendation to**

United Nations entities to incorporate indigenous peoples-driven platforms in order to give advice on and to promote indigenous peoples' issues, as well as consider the participation of the Permanent Forum together with indigenous peoples in such platforms.

75. The Permanent Forum recognizes that as the global economy promises to "build back better" from the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative that **international financial institutions, including the World Bank**, work in close consultation with indigenous peoples and invest in their communities. Indigenous peoples are partners in restarting the global economy while also maintaining their position given to them by birth as stewards of Mother Earth.

76. The Permanent Forum welcomes indigenous peoples' contributions to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The Forum underlines the need to develop a new programme of work and institutional arrangements on article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples. It recommends that the **secretariat of the Convention** facilitate a capacity-building process for indigenous peoples to enable them to prepare themselves for the development of new programmes of work and institutional arrangements.

77. The Permanent Forum welcomes the launching by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), during the twenty-seventh session of its Technical Committee on Agriculture, in 2020, of the global hub on indigenous peoples' food systems. It recommends that **FAO** continue to facilitate the work of the global hub. The Permanent Forum welcomes the White/Whipala paper on indigenous peoples' food systems, which was drafted under the coordination of the global hub, and which has been accepted as one of the scientific papers that will serve to inform constituents at the Summit.

78. The Permanent Forum welcomes the dialogues to support indigenous peoples' preparations for the Food Systems Summit. The Permanent Forum requests Member States and the **secretariat of the UNFSS** to guarantee the participation of indigenous peoples at the Summit and with a view to ensure due reflection of indigenous peoples' rights and issues in the relevant outcome documents.

79. The Permanent Forum recommends that **FAO** organize dialogues for indigenous peoples in such areas as the Arctic, North America, Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia, and the Pacific region to support indigenous peoples' in preparing for the Summit.

80. The Permanent Forum recommends that **FAO** develop an action plan to identify priorities with indigenous peoples to support their participation in the 2022 International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture.

82. The Forum recommends **UN Women** to conduct a study on Violence against Indigenous Women and Access to Justice, especially in cross-border

situations in cooperation with Indigenous Women.

83. The Permanent Forum calls on the organizers of the forthcoming meetings of **Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD** to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, virtually or in person, that are to be organized later this year. The Permanent Forum encourages donors and civil society organizations to support indigenous peoples' participation in these events.

84. The Permanent Forum welcomes the establishment of the Steering Committee on Indigenous Peoples of Africa that consists of the African Commission's Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities and Minorities in Africa as well as interested members of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues. **The Permanent Forum invites the Steering Committee** to work in cooperation with the members of the Permanent Forum to support the implementation of the System-Wide Action Plan on Indigenous Peoples as well as the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on the African continent. The Permanent Forum also encourages United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to establish a similar inter-agency group in Asia.

91. The Permanent Forum welcomes efforts by member states to organize specific vaccine programs for indigenous peoples **and encourages** CEPI, Gavi, **WHO and UNICEF** in their administration of the COVAX Facility to ensure that indigenous peoples are uniquely included in vaccine dissemination efforts. Given the disproportionate effect COVID-19 has had on the mortality of Indigenous Peoples in many countries, the Permanent Forum underlines the urgency of ensuring that all Indigenous Peoples are uniquely considered in vaccine planning and distribution. Due attention should also be given to indigenous peoples affected by conflict- and post-conflict situations and complex humanitarian emergencies.

95. The Permanent Forum recommends that the **World Health Organization (WHO)** create and convene regional round tables to address the issue of indigenous peoples and COVID-19 in order to ensure that the indigenous peoples of the globe are uniquely considered in mitigation efforts. Such round tables would also offer a timely opportunity to coordinate actions to respond to the impact on indigenous peoples of the pandemic.

96. The Permanent Forum also recommends **WHO and PAHO** to engage in an intersessional round table on COVID-19 with Forum members to ensure that ongoing mitigation planning and efforts are uniquely adapted to the needs of indigenous peoples, including by applying the intercultural approaches to health such as those applied by PAHO in the Americas.

97. The Permanent Forum recognizes the need to address the emergence of the mental health consequences of the pandemic. The consequences are being felt in all populations, but most acutely in populations that have

traditionally been marginalized. The Forum calls for investments and preparations for mental and behavioural health interventions that are culturally adapted. Traditional medicines and practices can play a key role in the health of indigenous communities and individuals by encompassing a variety of dimensions, including the spiritual. The Permanent Forum calls on the **WHO/Pan American Health Organization**, States Members of the United Nations and indigenous peoples to work together to provide pathways to promoting mental health.

98. The Permanent Forum recommends that **WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, together with the Inter-agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues**, promote dialogue forums at the national and regional levels between government ministries and indigenous peoples to establish culturally relevant strategies to address the epidemiological risks and the food and environmental crises resulting from the pandemic, as well as access to justice and the safeguarding of indigenous peoples' territorial control.

103. The Permanent Forum welcomes the fact that the International Union for Conservation of Nature, in cooperation with indigenous peoples, is undertaking preparations for the World Summit of Indigenous Peoples and Nature to be convened during the upcoming World Conservation Congress, which will be held in Marseille, France, in September 2021. The Summit is aimed at providing an opportunity to highlight and exchange information about the contributions of indigenous peoples to sustaining biodiversity, combating climate change and promoting sustainable development. **The Forum recommends that Member States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations support the participation of indigenous peoples in the Summit.** The Forum invites the International Union for Conservation of Nature to share the outcomes of the Summit at the Forum's twenty-first session.