


Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Report on the fifteenth session
(9-20 May 2016)

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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 “Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: the role of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and other indigenous specific mechanisms (article 42)”

The Economic and Social Council decides to authorize a three-day international expert group meeting on the theme “Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: the role of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and other indigenous specific mechanisms (article 42)”.

Draft decision II

Venue and dates for the sixteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Economic and Social Council decides that the sixteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues shall be held at United Nations Headquarters from 24 April to 5 May 2017.

Draft decision III

Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its fifteenth session and provisional agenda for its sixteenth session

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its fifteenth session;
- (b) Approves the provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Permanent Forum as set out below:
 1. Election of officers.
 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
 3. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum:
 - (a) Empowerment of indigenous women
 - (b) Indigenous youth.

4. Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
5. Dialogue with Indigenous Peoples.
6. Dialogue with Member States.
7. Dialogue with agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system.
8. Discussion on the theme “Tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: measures taken to implement the Declaration”.
9. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
10. Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Indigenous human rights defenders
11. Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples:
 - (a) Implementation of national action plans, strategies or other measures;
 - (b) Ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations;
 - (c) Implementation of the United Nations system-wide action plan on indigenous peoples.
12. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.
13. Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session.
14. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its sixteenth session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

2. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has identified the proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action set out below and, through the Economic and Social 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 secretariat of the Permanent Forum that those proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action to be carried out by the United 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.

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

International expert group meeting on the theme “Indigenous languages: preservation and revitalization (articles 13, 14 and 16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)”

4. This expert group meeting held at UN Headquarters in New York from 19 to 21 January 2016 was the second international expert group meeting on indigenous languages. The meeting built upon the findings and recommendations of the 2008 expert group meeting on the principles of cultural diversity and indigenous languages as a way to promote intercultural dialogue and affirm indigenous peoples’ identity.

5. Indigenous languages form the bedrock of continuity for the survival and well-being of indigenous cultures from one generation to the next. This important inter-generational responsibility has been severely disrupted by colonialism and colonial practices, laws, policies and practices of discrimination, assimilation, forced relocation, residential and boarding schools among others.

6. There is a growing crisis of indigenous language loss and in many cases urgent, even desperate need to preserve and revitalize languages. It is estimated that more than half of the world’s languages will become extinct by 2100.¹ The vast majority of languages under threat are indigenous languages. It is within this context that the expert group meeting on indigenous languages was convened at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from January 19-21, 2016. The outcome of the meeting was the report of the expert group meeting on “Indigenous Languages: preservation and revitalization (articles 13, 14 and 16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)”² which provided significant and pertinent recommendations to indigenous peoples, UN agencies, funds and programmes and States.

7. A significant underlying objective of all preservation and revitalization efforts is the absolute necessity of producing ever growing numbers of fluent language speakers. The thirty-five recommendations contained in the report, together with the substantive recommendations on indigenous languages in the 2008 Report of the International Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Languages³, provide considerable expert opinion and guidance on indigenous languages preservation and revitalization which require careful consideration and effective implementation by indigenous peoples, UN agencies, funds and programmes, in particular UNESCO, and States. This will require a considerable depth of political will by the UN system, States and civil society as well as the infusion of necessary financial commitments to realize significant gains in preservation and revitalization efforts.

8. There are successful examples, but too few, of indigenous led efforts on language preservation and revitalization such as those by Native Hawaiians. The Permanent Forum welcomes the new Indigenous Peoples Language Caucus established by indigenous peoples to ensure ongoing guidance for indigenous languages preservation and revitalization initiatives and provide for the development of the necessary mass of public knowledge and support. The caucus needs to be supported by the UN system, States and civil society. The United Nations Sustainable

¹ E/C.19/2005/7

² E/C.19/2016/10

³ E/C.19/2008/3

Development Goals demand that no-one should be left behind. In this spirit, given that languages are integral to the well-being of all peoples, no indigenous language should be left behind nor allowed to die.

9. The Permanent Forum recommends that States recognize the language rights of indigenous peoples and develop language policies to promote and protect indigenous languages, with a focus on quality education in indigenous languages, including through supporting full immersion methods such as languages nests and innovative methods such as nomadic schools. It is essential that States develop evidence-based legislation and policies to promote and protect indigenous languages and, in that regard, they should collect and disseminate baseline information on the status of indigenous languages. These activities should be conducted in close cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned.

10. The Permanent Forum recommends that States and the United Nations system, including United Nations country teams, provide support, including funding, for the efforts of indigenous peoples' institutions to preserve and revitalize their languages, with the particular goal of fluency. Such efforts may include the sharing of positive experiences and the establishment of informal networks or caucuses involved in the promotion and revitalization of indigenous languages, as well as the use of information and communication technologies in indigenous languages. It is important that States provide adequate funding for language revitalization as well as the preservation of cultural heritage as it relates to indigenous languages. In addition, States should facilitate funding for indigenous language projects from external donors, including the private sector, in accordance with law.

11. The Permanent Forum recommends that the General Assembly, by 2020, proclaim an International Year of Indigenous Languages and draw attention to the critical loss of indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages and to adopt further urgent steps at the national and international levels.

12. The Permanent Forum recommends that UNESCO, with the participation of indigenous peoples, urgently declare as the organization's priority the preservation, revitalization and promotion of indigenous languages. UNESCO is also urged to initiate international processes for the establishment of international standards on the preservation of indigenous languages. In particular, the Permanent Forum recommends that UNESCO collaborate with efforts led by indigenous peoples and others to map indigenous languages, such as the Endangered Languages Project.

Studies prepared by members of the Permanent Forum

13. At its fourteenth session in 2015, the Permanent Forum appointed Valmaine Toki to conduct a study on the relationship between indigenous peoples and the Pacific Ocean; and Edward John and Dalee Sambo Dorough to conduct a study on how States exploit weak procedural rules in international organizations to devalue the United Nations Declaration and other international human rights law.

14. In light of Ms Valmaine Toki's Study on the relationship between indigenous peoples and the Pacific Ocean, the dire effects of climate change, such as forced relocation and loss of culture and livelihood, on vulnerable small island Pacific

States, the Permanent Forum recommends that United Nations entities, including the International Seabed Authority, UN-Oceans, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and UNESCO, comply with and implement the relevant articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (articles 18, 27 and 32) to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples. This should include meaningful participation, such as dedicated indigenous representation within each of these United Nations entities, and regard for indigenous peoples' world views.

15. In reference to the Study on how States exploit weak procedural rules in international organizations to devalue the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other international human rights law by Mr. Edward John and Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorrough, the Permanent Forum recommends that all UN agencies, funds and programs as well as other inter-governmental fora, begin reform of their respective procedural rules, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, in order to ensure compliance and consistency with the human rights affirmed in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

16. Recalling the Study on Decolonisation of the Pacific (E/C.19/2013/12), the Permanent Forum invites the relevant States to provide information to the 16th session of the Permanent Forum on the status of the situation to the indigenous peoples concerned.

Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

17. This session attracted a number of speakers from Government representatives, intergovernmental organizations and indigenous peoples. High level speakers included Government Ministers, the Vice-President of Guyana and the Foreign Minister of Bolivia, the President of the Saami Parliament in Norway, and the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Canada. A large number of speakers reported on the need to repeal oppressive laws and practices that encroach upon indigenous peoples' rights. The debates also included the need to improve indigenous peoples' rights in the areas of health, education, human rights, economic and social development, environment and culture.

Human Rights

18. The Permanent Forum welcomes the endorsement by Canada of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, without qualification. The Permanent Forum looks forward to its immediate implementation, with full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, as a critical step in the reconciliation process between indigenous peoples and the State.

19. The Permanent Forum expresses its appreciation to the Government of Guatemala and organizations of indigenous peoples, especially the Organismo Naleb', for the support provided to hold the preparatory meeting for the 15th session of the Permanent Forum in Guatemala, from 10 to 16 April, 2016. The Forum appreciates the country's openness and dialogue with indigenous peoples' organizations, women's and youth organizations, the private sector, media and the

UN Country Team, as well as the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the Government of Guatemala. The Permanent Forum also calls upon States to propose and host the preliminary sessions of the Permanent Forum in the future.

20. The Permanent Forum welcomes the initiation of a national dialogue to discuss and to achieve key constitutional reforms in the field of justice in Guatemala, and encourages the recognition of indigenous justice systems. The Permanent Forum urges Guatemala and the private sector, as well as the World Bank and other international economic institutions, to acknowledge that serious efforts require structural economic and social reforms rather than rapid growth of gross domestic product in order to reverse widespread and growing poverty among the indigenous peoples of Guatemala. Such crucial reforms must ensure more equitable distribution and access to traditional lands for the indigenous peoples of Guatemala, consistent with the rights affirmed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and based on respect for and legal recognition of their collective rights, including their self-determined development. Furthermore, the Permanent Forum calls upon the State of Guatemala to reinforce the effective and full implementation of its Peace Accords.

21. In accordance with international law, the Permanent Forum recommends that all member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) recognize and respect that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of indigenous peoples of the world, and requests the OAS member States to ensure that the American declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples is consistent with or exceeds the standards affirmed in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

22. The Permanent Forum calls upon States to support the activities of representative institutions of indigenous peoples and to avoid any practice of limitation of such activities. The Permanent Forum urges all States to enable the functioning of indigenous peoples' institutions, in accordance with articles 5, 18 and 19 of the UN Declaration, as well as its spirit and intent.

23. The Permanent Forum acknowledges the contributions of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in the promotion and protection of human rights, including the rights of indigenous peoples, and welcomes their participation at future sessions of the Forum.

24. The Permanent Forum welcomes the Alternative Communication and Information Caucus of Indigenous Peoples, and its work on public education through dissemination of information on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP), especially through community radio.

25. The Permanent Forum remains concerned about the many indigenous peoples across the world and in particular, in Africa and Asia, who lack legal and political recognition as indigenous peoples or even denial of their existence as indigenous peoples. Such denial of status and existence as indigenous peoples results in violation of their human rights, as affirmed in the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples, ILO C169 and other international human rights instruments, including inter alia the right to self-determination; the right to culture; rights to

lands, territories and resources; traditional economies; the right to free, prior and informed consent; and the rights to redress, reparations and recourse.

26. Considering the calls by the Sami of Finland, the indigenous peoples of Canada, among others, the Permanent Forum respectfully requests that all member States, that have not done so, take action to ratify ILO Convention No 169.

27. The Permanent Forum acknowledges those States that have developed national action plans on indigenous peoples, and commends the government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on the enactment of the Law on Socio-Economic Development incorporating the rights set forth in the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

28. Consistent with Articles 18 and 19 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and in line with the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda with the call of “leave no one behind”, the Permanent Forum strongly recommend States, UN agencies, funds and programmes to ensure data disaggregation based on indigenous identifiers/ethnicity and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in developing and monitoring national action plans and in all process relating to the follow-up and review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals including in the High Level Political Forum.

29. Considering the statements of Brazil at the 15th session, the Permanent Forum welcomes the willingness of the government of Brazil to engage in dialogue concerning the status, conditions and rights of the indigenous peoples of Brazil, where many have faced suspension of the land demarcation process. The Forum respectfully request that Brazil uphold its national and international obligations to recognize and respect the human rights of indigenous peoples, as affirmed in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention 169. Further, the Permanent Forum urges the interim government of Brazil to safeguard the status of The National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) and its mandate in favour of the indigenous peoples of Brazil.

30. Taking into account the challenges faced by States in the implementation of their international obligation to consult with, and obtain the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples, the Permanent Forum commits to developing an international guide to facilitate the implementation of these principles in accordance with the standards established in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Permanent Forum invites the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to collaborate on this initiative.

31. Mauna Kea, the sacred mountain for native Hawaiians, is currently targeted for the placement of an international observatory featuring a 30-metre telescope. Such an activity inhibits and is contrary to the rights articulated in articles 11 and 12 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In addition, the Permanent Forum strongly recommends that the free, prior and informed consent of native Hawaiians be recognized.

Economic and Social Development

32. The Permanent Forum appreciates the willingness of Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth to make visible the situation of indigenous youth, in particular

concerning suicide and self-harm, in his advocacy. The Permanent Forum calls upon member States to implement the recommendations of the international expert group meeting on indigenous youth held in 2013 (see [E/C.19/2013/3](#)) in collaboration with the Inter Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) with the full participation of indigenous youth. The Permanent Forum invites the IANYD to report on progress in this regard at the sixteenth session of the Forum. The Permanent Forum invites the IANYD and the Envoy to increase indigenous youth participation at the sessions of the Permanent Forum and all relevant United Nations fora, and to report progress in this regard at the sixteenth session of the Permanent Forum.

33. The Permanent Forum invites the UN General Assembly to consider creation of a distinct United Nations voluntary fund for indigenous youth or the earmarking of existing and future funds to increase and enhance the direct participation of indigenous youth at the United Nations. Furthermore, The Permanent Forum encourages every United Nations member State to make multi-year voluntary contributions to such existing and/or future funds.

34. The Permanent Forum urges States to take necessary measures at the national level for the prevention of self-harm and suicide among indigenous children and youth, in particular by promoting the training of experts in the field of psychology who focus on issues specific to indigenous peoples. Such special training should take into account economic, historical, social, ecological and other factors, such as the loss of indigenous languages, cultures and lands.

35. Building upon past work of the Permanent Forum with regard to indigenous women, in particular the study on the extent of violence against indigenous women and girls in terms of article 22 (2) of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (see [E/C.19/2013/9](#)) and the report of the international expert group meeting on combating violence against indigenous women and girls in terms of article 22 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (see [E/2012/43-E/C.19/2012/13](#)) the Permanent Forum recommends that States adopt measures aimed at addressing the specific problems of police brutality, systemic police violence and discrimination against indigenous women, as experienced, for instance, by the indigenous women in Val-D'or, Canada, Sapur Zarco, Guatemala, and North-East India.

36. The Permanent Forum welcomes the intention of the Commission on the Status of Women to place the issue of the empowerment of indigenous women as a focus area of its sixty-first session in 2017. The Permanent Forum invites the Bureau of the Commission to consider organizing a half-day session on the empowerment of indigenous women. The Permanent Forum calls upon the Commission to consider the empowerment of indigenous women as a theme in future sessions as stated in paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 69/2 of 22 September, 2014.

37. The Permanent Forum recommends to UN Women to prepare a specific report on the situation of indigenous women's empowerment in collaboration with the Forum and indigenous women's organizations for the 17th session of the Forum.

38. The Permanent Forum urges member States and the agencies, funds and programs of the United Nations to implement actions to reduce maternal mortality among indigenous women. The Forum recommends that UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women publish a factsheet in collaboration with the Forum on

indigenous women's maternal mortality and maternal health, to reduce maternal mortality and promote sexual and reproductive health.

39. The Permanent Forum urges member States and the agencies, funds and programs of the United Nations to implement actions to strengthen leadership and political participation of indigenous women.

40. Consistent with the commitments in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Outcome Document and standards for indigenous peoples' survival, dignity and well-being contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum recommends that States to fully engage indigenous peoples in good faith negotiations of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements based on unequivocal recognition of indigenous peoples rights to lands, territories and resources and to fully reject extinguishment of indigenous rights in form or result. Further, the Permanent Forum recommends to States to address the call for full and effective redress for the loss of lands, territories and resources and State breaches of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements. The Permanent Forum reiterates the urgent need for States to institute, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, high-level oversight bodies to guide and oversee conduct of negotiations and implementation of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements in light of ongoing negotiation and implementation issues. Building on previous recommendations advanced at the 11th session of the Permanent Forum, States are encouraged to support inter-indigenous peoples dispute resolution by providing State financial and other methods of support to achieve peaceful resolution.

Environment

41. In accordance with the right to food security and food sovereignty, the Permanent Forum takes note of the Indigenous Terra Madre 2015 in Shillong, Meghalaya, in north-east India, from 3 to 7 November 2015, convened by the Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty with the support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the government of Meghalaya and a number of non-governmental organizations and funding agencies. The event, including a food festival, was attended by delegates from 62 countries and 170 indigenous communities, who adopted the Shillong Declaration of Indigenous Terra Madre 2015. The Permanent Forum likewise commends the initiative to form the Indigenous Food Communities Alliance as an indigenous platform for promoting good, clean and fair food based on agro-ecological initiatives that respect Mother Earth, are culturally sensitive, value traditional practices and are based on indigenous traditional scientific knowledge.

42. In relation to food security and food sovereignty of indigenous peoples, the Permanent Forum acknowledges indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge, in particular that of indigenous women, and recognizes their cultural, social and environmental practices, which contribute to global efforts and initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

43. The Permanent Forum calls upon indigenous peoples to share with the world their cultural, social and environmental practices relating to the production and

consumption of food, which are part of the solution to the global search for agricultural systems that are just, healthy, peaceful and sustainable.

44. The Permanent Forum recommends that member States, due to the threat of biopiracy and the pharmaceutical industry, elaborate legislative measures, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, to protect traditional medicine and knowledge, and to secure rights of indigenous peoples to intellectual property.

45. While recognizing that land and environmental degradation are factors of global concern, they have caused severe and stressful negative impacts among indigenous peoples as a result of land mismanagement such as over-exploitation of natural resources through factors like mining, over-utilization of forest wood (timber) and other products. This has led to soil and water degradation leading to the acceleration of the effects of climate change, low food production and uncertain livelihoods for communities. The Permanent Forum recommends States stop development projects without environmental impact assessments and free, prior and informed consent certificates on indigenous peoples' lands.

Culture

46. The Permanent Forum recognizes the recent formation of an ad hoc working group on international repatriation with the participation of States, indigenous peoples and United Nations agencies, including the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, which was reported at this session as another positive step forward in the implementation of recommendation No. 8 of the fourteenth session of the Permanent Forum.

47. The Permanent Forum requests that UNESCO host a joint seminar with the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other relevant United Nations mechanisms for the purpose of exploring the development of a new international mechanism on the repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains. The Permanent Forum further calls upon all States with national repositories of indigenous cultural items and ancestral remains, including museums and universities, to work with UNESCO to create an international database and inventory of these items accessible to indigenous peoples as a basis for initiating dialogue.

48. The first World Indigenous Peoples Games held in Palmas, Brazil last November 2015 illustrates and highlights the implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum, as contained, inter alia, in articles 3, 31 and 43. The leadership of the Inter-Tribal Committee and the Peoples and Government of Brazil is commended for this endeavour to uphold the survival, dignity and well-being of indigenous peoples of the World and the Permanent Forum welcomes the organization of the Second World Indigenous Peoples Games, planned for Canada in 2017.

Discussion on the theme “Indigenous peoples: conflict, peace and resolution”

49. Indigenous peoples often find themselves involved in situations of conflict, mostly relating to their lands, territories and resources, or their civil, political, cultural, social, and economic rights. During violent conflicts, indigenous peoples are often among the most vulnerable groups due to the situations of poverty, political marginalization and systemic discrimination faced that many still face today. In nearly every region of the world, indigenous peoples are being displaced and severely impacted by violence on their lands and territories. In some countries, indigenous peoples are victims of massacres carried out by the army or paramilitary groups during conflicts. In many cases, indigenous women have been used as “spoils of war” and subjected to sexual violence and rape. Indigenous children are sometimes forcibly recruited to participate in armed conflicts, leaving behind their homes, and their childhood.

50. The Forum held two interactive discussions on the theme. The Permanent Forum invited panellists to share examples of the kinds of conflict that indigenous peoples, including indigenous women, face around the world. The outcomes of the panel discussions are outlined in the recommendations below.

51. States should take effective measures to eliminate violence against indigenous peoples by studying the root causes of conflict and human rights abuses, developing indicators and methodologies for risk assessment and early warning mechanisms and improving national legislation for the administration of justice with regard to perpetrators of war crimes.

52. Consistent with articles 7 and 30 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, States should take measures for settlement, protection and security in the post-conflict period, and for the construction of durable and lasting peace, promoting the full and effective inclusion of indigenous peoples, including indigenous women, in any initiative for peace and reconciliation.

53. The Permanent Forum notes that a key message of the 2016 session was the need to combat pervasive violations against indigenous human rights defenders, including criminalization, persecution, violence, imprisonment and killing.

54. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research established peace and conflict resolution training for indigenous peoples in 2000 in response to indigenous peoples’ request for training. It is one of the most important human rights training programmes in the United Nations system that examines the root causes of conflict.

55. The Permanent Forum urges member States to contribute support to make possible the UNITAR’s annual training programme to enhance the conflict prevention and peacemaking capacities of indigenous peoples’ representatives so as to strengthen indigenous capacity to engage in negotiation, dialogue and peace processes to contribute to sustainable peace.

56. The Permanent Forum emphasizes that the protection, security and rights of indigenous girls and women in conflict settings constitute an urgent priority, including within the framework of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security.

57. Sexual and gender-based violence increases in settings of conflict. Sexual violence has also been used systematically as a weapon of war against indigenous women. In the light of the particular risks and vulnerabilities of indigenous women

and girls relating to sexual and gender-based violence, the Permanent Forum recommends that Governments, local authorities, United Nations agencies and civil society collaborate with indigenous peoples to establish multisectoral and holistic approaches to combat the various forms of violence against women and girls.

58. Consistent with Article 7 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum recommends the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to urgently establish an independent international commission to investigate the assassination of Berta Cáceres and Nelson García of the Lenca people of Honduras.

59. The Permanent Forum expresses its solidarity with the families of 43 trainee teachers of Ayotzinapa, Guerrero, Mexico, who have been missing since 26 September 2014, and supports their efforts to seek justice. The Permanent Forum also welcomes and acknowledges the steps taken thus far by the Government of Mexico to resolve this disappearance, and encourages the Government to continue its efforts in collaboration with the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights and in close consultation with the relevant indigenous peoples and families.

60. In reference to Article 42 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum invites African states, in particular Mali, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Libya, Burundi, Rwanda, to present at its sixteenth session information on the situation of indigenous peoples affected by conflict in their countries.

61. The Permanent Forum urges the international community to support the peace process in Mali and to establish an independent monitoring committee that will oversee the implementation of the peace agreement of June 20, 2015 with the effective and representative participation of the Tuareg peoples in accordance with articles 7 and 37 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

62. Due to the particular vulnerability of indigenous peoples in conflict situations, the Permanent Forum recommends the United Nations Department for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and regional peacekeeping forces to factor the protection of indigenous peoples into analysis, planning and guidance on protection of civilians.

63. Building on previous Permanent Forum recommendations that have called upon States to implement the agreements reached in Peace Accords, the Permanent Forum is concerned regarding the lack of their implementation and encourages States to engage in constructive dialogue with indigenous peoples, including the Maya, Garifuna, Xinka, Jumma, Kanak, Naga, Chin, Amazigh, Tuareg, Maohis peoples and provide information to the 16th session of the Permanent Forum on the status of these agreements. In accordance with Articles 3, 4, 5, 18 and 27 of UN Declaration on the Rights of Peoples, the Permanent Forum urges these States to undertake this implementation with the full participation of indigenous peoples.

64. The religious, spiritual and cultural sites of indigenous peoples, including Ktunaxa Nation in Canada, Aboriginal people of Australia, Mayan of Guatemala and Amazigh peoples continue to face destruction. This has profoundly negative impacts on indigenous peoples, including their sacred practices. Consistent with articles 11, 12, 13, 19, 25, 31 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and paragraphs 20 and 27 of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum recommends that States, in their national action plans, strategies and other measures:

- (a) Take effective measures to ensure that indigenous peoples' spiritual and cultural sites are protected;
- (b) Ensure that, consistent with article 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, indigenous peoples are not forced to defend these rights against proposed development projects or through litigation in courts;
- (c) Actively resolve disputes directly with indigenous peoples, consistent with article 19 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, given that these rights constitute critical elements of the survival, dignity and well-being of indigenous peoples.

Follow-up to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

65. During this session a number of issues were discussed that were outlined in Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The discussions focused on the development of a system-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; support for the establishment of consultative mechanisms between States and indigenous peoples at the national level to develop national action plans; review of the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions at the United Nations.

66. The General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/70/232, entitled "Rights of Indigenous Peoples", requested the President of the General Assembly, at its seventieth session, to conduct, within existing resources, timely, inclusive, representative and transparent consultations with Member States, indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions from all regions of the world, and existing relevant mechanisms of the United Nations, on the possible measures necessary, including procedural and institutional steps and selection criteria, to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them. The General Assembly also requested the President to prepare a compilation of the views presented during the consultations, including good practices within the United Nations regarding indigenous peoples' participation, which will form the basis for a draft text to be finalized and adopted by the Assembly during its seventy-first session. To assist him in implementing this mandate, the President of the General Assembly has appointed two Advisers from Member States, as well as two Advisers from indigenous peoples.

67. Taking into account paragraphs 11, 14, 15, 17 and 26 of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples held in 2014 (see General Assembly resolution 69/2) and article 23 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum reminds member States of the need to implement their commitments through national action plans, strategies or other measures, developed jointly and effectively with indigenous representatives based on the right of free, prior and informed consent, in particular to ensure the adequate training and availability of health professionals in indigenous communities as a matter of urgency.

68. The Permanent Forum welcomes the appointment by the President of the General Assembly of James Anaya (United States of America); Claire Charters (Aotearoa/New Zealand); Ambassador Kai Sauer, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations; and Ambassador Ama Akyaa Pobee, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations, as his advisers and fully supports their efforts to identify ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them. The Permanent Forum expert members look forward to focused discussion and fruitful collaboration with them as they endeavour to finalize their mandate.

Dialogues with Indigenous Peoples' Organizations, States and funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies

69. The Permanent Forum conducted three focused interactive dialogues with indigenous peoples, member States, and funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies as part of the reform of the methods of work as well as to provide an opportunity to focus on specific issues and identify ways forward. There was general support for the closed meetings and the opportunity to have a space to address important issues. This initiative will be continued in future sessions.

70. The dialogue with indigenous peoples included discussions on a number of topics including follow-up to the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, in particular the implementation of national action plans; recommendations of the Permanent Forum and new methods of work and the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Dialogue with member States

71. As a result of the dialogue between the expert members of the Permanent Forum and member States, the Forum recommends that all member States:

(a) Prepare reports for the Forum at its sixteenth session, on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in their countries, with a focus on progress and outstanding issues, in particular in relation to legislative measures;

(b) In recognition of the tenth anniversary of the UN Declaration, organize activities to commemorate the adoption of the UN Declaration at various levels, from local to national, including to raise public awareness of the UN Declaration and the progress achieved.

Dialogue with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies

72. On the basis of the constructive dialogue between the Permanent Forum and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, the Forum recommends that the members of the Support Group demonstrate strong commitment from the highest level, including by:

- (a) Institutionalizing dialogue between the expert members of the Forum and the principals of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system;
- (b) Allocating sufficient resources to implement the system-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the Declaration;
- (c) Establishing institutional consultation mechanisms to ensure active collaboration and partnership with indigenous peoples at the national, regional and global levels, in both developing and developed countries;
- (d) Incorporating specific targets and indicators with disaggregated data to address the key issues and priorities of indigenous peoples at the national level;
- (e) Ensuring active cooperation between the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and Forum members holding relevant agency portfolios.

73. The Forum requests the members of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues to include in their annual reports to the Forum information on progress made in the implementation of the system-wide action plan.

Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues

74. Given the holistic and integral vision of indigenous peoples, the Sustainable Development Goals must be implemented in a comprehensive way, taking into account that the absence of a single element would lead to a lack of equilibrium and harmony in relationships between human beings and Mother Nature. The Permanent Forum recommends that States and United Nations agencies widely disseminate the Goals to indigenous peoples, using culturally appropriate educational tools and in indigenous languages, observing protocols and times suitable for such dissemination, given lack of knowledge about them.

75. Building upon the Twelfth Session Permanent Forum Study on the situation of indigenous persons with disabilities, with a particular focus on challenges faced with respect to the full enjoyment of human rights and inclusion in development (E/C.19/2013/6), and in light of the 2030 Development Agenda "leave no one behind", the Forum is concerned that the experiences and rights of indigenous persons with disabilities requires further study and examination. As such, the Forum calls upon the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as the focal point within the United Nations system on matters relating to disability, to conduct a qualitative study respecting indigenous persons with disabilities, in all seven regions of the world.

Chapter II

Venue, dates and proceedings of the session

By its decision 2015/249, the Economic and Social Council decided that the fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum would be held at United Nations Headquarters from 9 to 20 May 2016.

77. At its 2nd and 8th meetings, on 9 and 13 May, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 3, entitled “Follow-up on the recommendations of the Permanent Forum”. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the documents entitled “Study on the relationship between indigenous peoples and the Pacific Ocean” (E/C.19/2016/3), “Study on how States exploit weak procedural rules in international organizations to devalue the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other international human rights law” (E/C.19/2016/4), “System-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” (E/C.19/2016/5 and Corr.1), “Compilation of information from Member States on addressing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum” (E/C.19/2016/6), “Compilation of information from national human rights institutions” (E/C.19/2016/7), “Compilation of information received from funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies on progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum” (E/C.19/2016/8), “Compilation of information received from indigenous people’s organizations” (E/C.19/2016/9), and “Expert group meeting on the theme ‘Indigenous languages: preservation and revitalization (articles 13, 14 and 16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)’” (E/C.19/2016/10). At its 17th meeting, on 20 May 2016, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under agenda item 3 (see chap. I, sect. B).

78. At its 3rd to 6th and 15th to 16th meetings, from 10 to 12 and on 19 May, the Forum considered agenda item 4, entitled “Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”. At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

79. At its 12th to 13th meeting, on 17 May, the Forum considered agenda item 5, entitled “Discussion on the theme ‘Indigenous peoples: conflict, peace and resolution’”. At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

80. At its 7th meeting, on 12 May, the Forum considered agenda item 6, entitled “Dialogue with indigenous peoples”. At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

81. At its 11th meeting, on 16 May, the Permanent Forum considered item 7, entitled “Dialogue with Member States”. At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

82. At its 9th meeting, on 13 May, the Forum considered agenda item 8, entitled “Dialogue with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies”. At its 17th meeting, the Forum

considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

83. At its 10th meeting, on 16 May, the Forum considered agenda item 9, entitled “Coordination among the three United Nations mechanisms pertaining to indigenous peoples”, sub-items (a) (“Coordination among the three United Nations mechanisms pertaining to indigenous peoples”) and (b) (“Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”), during which there was a dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples with a specific focus on economic, social and cultural rights. At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under agenda item 9 (see chap. I, sect. B).

84. At its 14th meeting, on 18 May, the Forum considered agenda item 10, entitled “Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues”, to discuss, inter alia, its methods of work and indigenous human development and human rights indicators. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it a note by the Secretariat entitled “Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda” (E/C.19/2016/2). At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted a draft decision and its recommendations submitted under agenda item 10 (see chap. I, sects. A and B).

85. At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered agenda item 11, entitled “Provisional agenda for the sixteenth session”. At the same meeting, the Forum considered and adopted a draft decision submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. A).

Chapter III

Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fifteenth session

86. At its 17th meeting, the Rapporteur introduced the draft decisions and recommendations and the draft report of the Permanent Forum on its fifteenth session.

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

Chapter IV

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

88. The Permanent Forum held its fifteenth session at United Nations Headquarters from 9 to 20 May 2016. It held 17 formal meetings and 3 closed meetings to consider the items on its agenda.

89. At the 1st meeting, on 9 May, the session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. At the opening ceremony, Tadodaho Sid Hill, of the Onondaga Nation, delivered a welcoming address. The Secretary-General of the United Nations made a statement by a video message. The President of the General Assembly and the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council delivered statements.

90. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Chair of the Permanent Forum, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Minister of Labour and Social Prevention of Guatemala and the Minister of Justice of Canada.

91. At the 17th meeting, the Secretary-General of the United Nations made a statement.

B. Attendance

92. Members of the 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 published at a later date.

C. Election of officers

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

Chair:

Alvaro Pop

Vice-Chairs:

Mariam Walleh Mohamed Aboubakrine

Aysa B. Mukabenova

Dalee Sambo Dorough

Raja Devasish Roy

Rapporteur:

Oliver Loode

D. Agenda

94. At its 1st meeting, the Forum adopted the provisional agenda contained in document [E/C.19/2016/1](#), as orally revised.

E. Documentation

95. The list of the documents before the Forum at its fifteenth session will be published at a later date.

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