



Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch/
Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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5 March 2020

Your Excellency,

This is to inform you that in light of the extraordinary situation related to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues convened an emergency teleconference meeting on Thursday 5 March.

At this meeting the Permanent Forum decided to postpone its forthcoming 19th session, that was scheduled to take place on 13-24 April 2020, until a later date, to be determined.

The Members of the Permanent Forum did not take this decision lightly but believe that this is the only responsible action to take, considering the high level of participation of indigenous peoples, Member States, UN entities and civil society at the annual sessions of the Permanent Forum. An additional factor is the already precarious health situation that many indigenous peoples live in, and the imperative to avoid adverse impacts.

The Members of the Permanent Forum emphasize that this decision was in response to the urgent and exceptional circumstances related to the COVID 19 global outbreak. They reiterate the importance of implementing their mandate to address the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples across the globe. In this regard the Permanent Forum expresses its commitment and flexibility in seeking possible alternative dates and venues to organize the Forum's 19th session.

As the Chair of the Forum, I am, as ever, ready to cooperate with you on this matter, including the necessary arrangements to submit draft decisions to the Council regarding the future work of the Permanent Forum and its next 20th session in 2021.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Anne Nuorgam', written over a horizontal line.

Anne Nuorgam
Chairperson
United Nations Permanent Forum
on Indigenous Issues

H.E. Ms. Mona Juul
President of the Economic and Social Council
United Nations, New York