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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Report on the third session
(10-21 May 2004)

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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Report on the third session
(10-21 May 2004)
Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.
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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 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
Intersessional meeting of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Economic and Social Council decides to authorize, on an exceptional basis, a three-day intersessional meeting of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2005 to prepare for the fourth annual session of the Forum in cooperation with the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues.

Draft decision II
Workshop on free, prior and informed consent

The Economic and Social Council decides to authorize a technical three-day workshop on free, prior and informed consent, with the participation of representatives of the United Nations system and other interested intergovernmental organizations, experts from indigenous organizations, interested States and three members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and requests the workshop to report to the fourth session of the Forum under the special theme of the session.

Draft decision III
Venue and dates for the fourth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Economic and Social Council decides that the fourth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held at United Nations Headquarters from 9 to 20 May 2005. The Economic and Social Council also decides to consider, in accordance with its resolution 2000/22, the holding of the fifth and sixth sessions of the Forum in Geneva or another part of the world.

Draft decision IV
Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Economic and Social Council approves the following provisional agenda and documentation for the fourth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:

* Statements on the programme budget implications of the following draft decisions will be submitted, as required, to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2004.
Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Special theme: Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples:
   (a) Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals: “Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger”, to be addressed under the following thematic approach of combating poverty: good practices and barriers to implementation;
   (b) Goal 2 of the Millennium Development Goals: “Achieve universal primary education”, to be addressed under the thematic approaches of language, cultural perspectives and traditional knowledge.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat and other documentation to be submitted by the United Nations system

4. Ongoing priorities and themes:
   (a) Human rights, with special emphasis on an interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people;
   (b) Data collection and the disaggregation of data on indigenous peoples;
   (c) Follow-up to previous special themes: “Indigenous children and youth” (2003) and “Indigenous women” (2004).

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat and other documentation to be submitted by the United Nations system

5. Future work of the Forum.
7. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fourth session.

Draft decision V

Proposal for a second international decade of the world’s indigenous people

The Economic and Social Council recommends to the General Assembly that it declare a second international decade of the world’s indigenous peoples after the conclusion of the current International Decade of the World’s Indigenous Peoples in 2004.
B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council*

2. The Forum has identified the proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action set out below and, through the Council, recommends that Member States, the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples, the private sector and non-governmental organizations assist in their realization.**

1. Indigenous women

3. The Forum recognizes the unique contributions made by indigenous women within their families, communities and nations and at the international level. At the same time, the Forum expresses concern about the multiple forms of discrimination experienced by indigenous women, based on gender and race/ethnicity, and the complex problems stemming from this discrimination. In addition, globalization presents new challenges and problems for indigenous women in many parts of the world. Indigenous women’s roles have eroded due to the compounding factors of loss of natural resources and depletion of the ecosystems, their transformation into cash economies, changes in local, social and decision-making structures, and their lack of political status within States. Indigenous women, while sharing many of the concerns in the areas of poverty, human rights, and economic and social development with other women throughout the world, also offer a distinct and important perspective on these issues. The fact that “indigenous women” are not a homogeneous category but represent a wide variety of cultures with different needs and concerns, should be a central premise for the design of policies and programmes.

4. The Forum reconfirms its commitment to working tirelessly within its mandated areas and to promoting and protecting the human rights of indigenous women. In so doing, the Forum recognizes the crucial role that indigenous men and boys play in traditional societies in achieving gender equality and that that natural gender balance must be reinstated in culturally appropriate ways, within indigenous societies and beyond, and encourages all stakeholders to enlist their support. Recognizing the progress made by organizations representing indigenous peoples, United Nations agencies and Governments, and building upon the recommendations made in its reports on the first and second sessions, the Forum provides the advice and recommendations set out below (further draft recommendations are issued under item 4).

5. The Forum encourages United Nations bodies whose activities have an impact on indigenous women (including, but not limited to, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations

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* The Secretariat will review the proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action to be carried out by the United Nations under this section and will bring to the attention of the Council at its substantive session of 2004 any additional resource requirements in this regard.

** Due to time constraints before the adoption by the Forum of the present report, a written statement containing detailed information concerning the proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action to be carried out by the Secretariat will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 2004.
Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the regional commissions, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, especially the Division for the Advancement of Women, and the Department of Information of the United Nations Secretariat), to integrate the human rights, including the reproductive health rights, and special concerns and needs of indigenous women into their programmes and policies, and to report regularly to the Forum. The reports should contain detailed information on the strategies and policy assessments at the regional and national levels and on the progress made within existing programmes directed at and relating to indigenous women, as well as policy assessments and recommendations concerning the issue of indigenous women.

6. Noting that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women makes no reference to indigenous women and that it does not take into account the specific nature of the gender dimension of racial discrimination, the Forum recommends that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women:

(a) Pay special attention to the issues related to maintaining the integrity of indigenous women and the gender dimension of racial discrimination against indigenous peoples;

(b) Organize a meeting, in collaboration with indigenous women, UNIFEM, UNESCO and UNDP, with the objective of beginning a process to develop and adopt a general recommendation on indigenous women, including women living under colonization.

7. The Forum recommends that the Commission on Human Rights appoint or designate a rapporteur to undertake a study on genocidal and ethnocidal practices perpetuated on indigenous peoples, including programmes for the sterilization of indigenous women and girls, the use of indigenous communities as subjects of nuclear testing or for the storage of nuclear waste and as subjects of the testing of unapproved drugs on indigenous women, children and peoples.

8. The Forum encourages all United Nations entities to mainstream indigenous gender issues and to integrate the special needs and concerns of indigenous women into their programmes and policies by taking the following steps:

(a) Compiling and integrating disaggregated data (both qualitative and quantitative in nature and taking into account local and regional cultural/social/economic differences) on indigenous women’s issues in their own annual reports. The Forum commends those who have already begun to address this issue of lack of relevant data;

(b) Integrating indigenous experts on indigenous women’s issues in their programming staff;

(c) Appointing indigenous focal points on indigenous women’s issues within wider gender portfolios;

(d) Planning special events centred on the theme “Indigenous women” and integrating that theme in their documentation and outreach activities (web site, reports etc.).
(e) Increasing outreach to indigenous women’s organizations worldwide;

(f) Increasing the outreach and information flow to and from the academic community, including indigenous educational institutions, on indigenous women’s issues.

9. The Forum underlines the importance of technical cooperation and capacity-building programmes regarding and involving indigenous women, and in that respect recommends that such programmes conducted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ILO, UNDP, among others, include projects regarding and involving indigenous women.

10. The Forum recognizes the instrumental role of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) and welcomes the identification of “indigenous women” as an emerging key issue, the creation of a task force on indigenous women and the inclusion of an item on indigenous women in its 2005 agenda. The Forum requests its secretariat to transmit to it the results of the 2005 session of IANWGE on indigenous women.


12. Given the large number of indigenous migrants within and beyond national borders and the particular vulnerability of indigenous women migrants, as well as the lack of adequate data and attention to their problems, the Forum recommends launching a new initiative involving various stakeholders, including the Inter-Agency Support Group, the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in order to face this urgency. The Forum recommends, as a first step, the convening of a workshop on the theme “Migration of indigenous women” in order to highlight the urgency and scale of the issue, including the alarming trend of trafficking indigenous women within and across national borders, and the development of recommendations and guidelines for addressing the problems faced by indigenous migrant women. Participants to the workshop should be a selected number of members of the Forum, relevant United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes, and experts from indigenous organizations, NGOs, intergovernmental organizations, Governments and academia. The objectives of the workshop should be:

(a) To underscore the urgency and scale of the issue;

(b) To highlight and address the lack of reliable data on the issue and to promote the systematic collection of data (of both quantitative and qualitative nature) by relevant United Nations and other intergovernmental entities, Governments, NGOs, indigenous organizations, and academia;

(c) To review and analyse existing data;

(d) To provide a report, including recommendations, to the Forum.
13. Violent conflicts and militarization fundamentally affect the lives of indigenous women and their families and communities, causing violations of their human rights and displacement from their ancestral lands. Yet indigenous women do not see themselves as passive victims but have taken up the roles of mediators and peace builders. Recognizing the profound concerns of the impact of conflict situations on indigenous women, the Forum recommends:

(a) That IOM and other relevant United Nations entities incorporate the needs and priorities of women and girls as ex-combatants in the design and implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, and ensure their full access to all resources and benefits provided in reintegration programmes, including income-generation and skill-development programmes;

(b) That UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme, and other field-based agencies collect data on the situation of indigenous women living in conflict areas. Such data would be valuable for analysis and programme development;

(c) That IANWGE integrate indigenous women issues into its strategies on women, conflict, peace and security;

(d) That the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations human rights bodies ensure that statutory provisions prohibiting war crimes and crimes against humanity cover criminal acts perpetrated on a gender basis since their occurrence remains particularly acute, especially the high incidence of mass rape and mutilation during armed conflict;

(e) That UNHCR give priority to indigenous women and their families who are displaced internally and externally by force due to armed conflict in their territories.

14. To ensure that the concerns and priorities of indigenous women are properly taken into account, the Forum urges States:

(a) To take concrete steps to increase the participation of indigenous women in governance and decision-making structures at all levels;

(b) To clearly identify and define the issues and needs of indigenous women, taking into account regional and local cultural differences;

(c) To develop and strengthen structures and mechanisms for the advancement of indigenous women within the wider agenda for the advancement of women; to clearly define their mandate by taking into account the holistic and cross-cutting nature of indigenous women’s issues; to allocate appropriate resources to those institutions; and to provide support from the national political leadership to those structures;

(d) To ensure the implementation of international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, regarding indigenous women, and to integrate those instruments into the formulation of a coherent national public policy for indigenous women (including legal frameworks, budget allocations and specific programmes and projects addressing indigenous women’s issues);
To ensure equal access of indigenous women to decision-making and governmental bodies, political parties, judiciary, trade unions etc.;

To lend support to NGOs (both international and national) dealing with issues involving indigenous women;

To increase indigenous women’s capacity for decision-making and political participation, and to ensure that adequate numbers of indigenous women are placed in positions of political leadership as well as in governance and public administration.

15. The Forum, to underscore its long-term commitment to the issue of “indigenous women”, recommends that its secretariat:

(a) Assist IANWGE in its efforts to mainstream indigenous women’s issues throughout the United Nations system;

(b) Strengthen liaison with the Forum’s portfolio holders in order to provide feedback on indigenous women’s issues in each of the mandated areas to the Forum;

(c) Promote the monitoring and reporting on the implementation process of programmes within the United Nations system designed to address indigenous women’s issues and the assessment of their impact;

(d) Increase outreach to indigenous women’s groups and assist them in networking and information-sharing;

(e) Create strong liaison relationship with universities and other institutions of learning and research with the aim of mainstreaming indigenous women’s issues in academic curricula, assist indigenous women’s organizations in identifying and effectively utilizing available education resources and programmes, and promote capacity-building through fellowships, grants etc.;

(f) Build broad-based awareness of indigenous women’s issues by increasing the Forum’s media outreach (e.g., through newsletters, radio, web site, publications in journals on indigenous issues).

2. Education

Introduction

16. The Forum recalls the Millennium Development Goal to “Achieve universal primary education”, especially for indigenous women and girls, as well as the Dakar Framework for Action, “Education for all: meeting our collective commitments”, and reiterates its support, with a focus on indigenous women and girls. In accordance with the provision contained in the relevant international instruments, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, International Labour Organization Convention 169 and the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education, some Governments have in recent years, taking into account their specific situations, formulated policies and programmes to safeguard indigenous peoples’ equal rights to education, and have adopted positive measures to address indigenous education issues. These should be promoted as good practices throughout the United Nations system and broadly to all Member States. Furthermore, to achieve equitable educational outcomes for indigenous peoples, especially indigenous women and
girls, Governments should adopt special measures (UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education).

17. The Forum recognizes that:

(a) Education can be an effective means to protect the cultural traditions of indigenous peoples;
(b) Education is a basic human right for indigenous peoples;
(c) Education is a prerequisite for the realization of other human rights;
(d) Education is an effective means leading to equality, freedom and quality of life;
(e) Education, when it is culturally appropriate, promotes mother tongue learning and includes indigenous knowledge in the curriculum, can help defend against the negative impacts of cultural globalization;
(f) Education is a crucial right for indigenous women and girls;
(g) Education principles must ensure non-discrimination (on the basis of race, ethnicity, culture, sex, age, disability or religion);
(h) The mother tongue is the foundation for all learning;
(i) Education should include sport and physical activities and physical education.

18. The Forum makes the recommendations set out below to United Nations Member States, the United Nations system and indigenous peoples organizations.

Recommendations to member States

19. Member States should consider the adoption and full implementation of comprehensive national indigenous education policies based on the following goals:

Participation

(a) Establishing effective arrangements for the participation of indigenous parents and community members in decisions regarding the planning, delivery and evaluation of education services for their children, young people and other community members;
(b) Increasing the number of indigenous people employed as educational administrators, teachers, coaches, officials, curriculum advisers, teacher’s assistants, home-school liaison officers and other education workers, including community members engaged in teaching indigenous culture, history and contemporary society, and indigenous languages;
(c) Developing arrangements for the provision of independent advice from indigenous communities regarding educational decisions at all levels;
(d) Achieving the participation of indigenous children, young people and adults in education for a period similar to that of other students;
Access

(e) Ensuring that indigenous children, young people and adults have access to all levels of education (including adult education) on a basis comparable to that available to other citizens;

Attainment

(f) Enabling indigenous students to attain skills and graduation rates up to the same standard as other students throughout the compulsory and non-compulsory schooling years;

(g) Developing teaching forms and curricula based on mother tongue (additive learning) in primary and secondary education (should be mandatory in order to achieve goal (f) above);

(h) Developing curricula for both primary and secondary education which reflect the insights and usefulness of indigenous knowledge systems and are sensitive to indigenous values. Curricula should:

(i) Incorporate indigenous histories, traditional knowledge and spiritual values;

(ii) Integrate indigenous oral traditions, myths and writings, acknowledging these as unique parts of world heritage;

Indigenous languages, proficiency in the national language, literacy and numeracy

(i) Developing programmes based on the child’s mother tongue (first language) as a foundation for learning and aiming at the maintenance and continued use of indigenous languages;

(j) Enabling the attainment of proficiency in the commonly used national language and at least one international language, and numeracy competencies by all indigenous students, including indigenous adults, giving particular attention to indigenous women based on the framework of the United Nations Decade of Literacy;

Capacity-building

(k) Providing community education services which will enable indigenous peoples to develop the skills to manage the development of their communities;

(l) Providing education and training services to develop the skills of indigenous people to participate in educational decision-making;

Appreciation, understanding and respect for indigenous cultures

(m) Enabling all students, both indigenous and non-indigenous, at all levels of education, to have an appreciation and understanding of and respect for traditional and contemporary indigenous histories, cultures and identities;

Anti-racism strategies

(n) Promoting anti-racism education, including strategies to empower young people to deal with racism in the compulsory schooling curriculum;
Cultural, social and economic development in education

(o) Indigenous peoples should be resourced and supported to establish their own education systems, including schools, should they so choose. Also, traditional indigenous education and its structures should be respected and supported;

Education for indigenous peoples in custody or detention

(p) Given the overrepresentation of indigenous youth and adults in detention, the Forum urges States to consider culturally relevant and appropriate education for indigenous peoples in detention centres;

(q) The Forum asks that education plans, programmes and policies be implemented especially for indigenous girls, boys and women.

Recommendations to the United Nations system

20. The Forum recommends that the United Nations system consider the following recommendations:

(a) The United Nations system should fully explore the protection, use and promotion of indigenous (including traditional) knowledge and ensure synergies across the relevant bodies currently investigating the issues (specifically the World Intellectual Property Organization, UNESCO, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Health Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and others) and furthermore should invite the Forum to participate;

(b) UNESCO should continue to investigate indigenous pedagogy and its application to indigenous education in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples and the Forum and other relevant bodies. The study should include the use of such strategies as boarding schools and both their negative and positive effects. To assist with this investigation into indigenous education, UNESCO is urged to facilitate regional conferences and a global forum on indigenous education to identify both barriers to educational equity and good practice;

(c) The Forum calls upon Governments and UNESCO to give more attention (by increasing their budgets) to developing quality indigenous education policies (with the participation of indigenous peoples) to achieve the Dakar objectives. “Education for all” is one of the fundamental objectives of the World Education Forum that should be achieved by 2015;

(d) The Forum encourages the United Nations Children’s Fund, UNESCO and other agencies to continue to support, in cooperation with indigenous peoples, intercultural and bilingual education programmes and to promote in particular the right of education for girls;

(e) The Forum should work with UNITAR to coordinate training for indigenous peoples within the United Nations system;

(f) UNESCO is requested to facilitate a world indigenous education conference, with appropriate United Nations partners (the Forum, UNESCO, UNITAR etc.), Member States and indigenous peoples. Furthermore, UNESCO should invite indigenous peoples and the Forum to participate in United Nations
activities in the field of education. UNESCO has recently completed and distributed a publication on best practices for indigenous peoples education and this should be promoted throughout the international community;

(g) UNICEF advocates bilingual and cross-cultural education for indigenous peoples and conducts schools for girls and women’s literacy programmes in Latin America, and this initiative should be further encouraged and expanded;

(h) The Forum recommends that relevant agencies and Governments, on a regional basis, should provide technical services and the political and moral support needed for the creation, recognition and functioning of future international indigenous universities;

(i) Taking into account the importance of UNESCO national commissions, the Forum recommends that the Economic and Social Council and Governments facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples in the regional commissions with the incorporation of indigenous representation;

(j) The Forum, to underscore the crucial role of language skills to sustainable development and in celebration of the United Nations Year on Education for Sustainable Development (2005), recommends that the secretariat of the Forum, together with the United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF and UNESCO, explore the possibility of organizing a regional workshop in Asia or Africa on the theme “Indigenous children and language education”, to discuss policies, programmes and practical experiences with bilingual education to strengthen additive learning through the use of mother tongue and the “indigenization” of curricula in formal schooling, among members of the Forum, United Nations agencies, Governments (especially departments of education), indigenous and tribal representatives and indigenous education experts.

Recommendations to indigenous peoples organizations

21. Recognizing that States cannot address indigenous education issues alone or in isolation, indigenous representatives and organizations of indigenous peoples should prepare to engage with Governments to facilitate the indigenous education goals of participation, access, attainment, indigenous languages, proficiency in the national language and at least one international language and numeracy, capacity-building, appreciation, understanding and respect for indigenous cultures, and anti-racism strategies.

22. The Forum welcomes the establishment of indigenous education caucuses and looks forward to working with them to promote mutual indigenous education goals, and urges indigenous educators to become actively involved in these useful structures.

23. The Forum reiterates the recommendations on the dissemination of information on indigenous issues, and invites indigenous peoples organizations, through the indigenous education caucus, to foster new forms and ways to further education and dissemination of information concerning the Forum to indigenous peoples communities and organizations, using radio programmes, publications and other appropriate cultural and educational media. The Forum recommends that the funds, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system assign appropriate resources and funds to achieve that objective.
3. Culture

Introduction
Culture and indigenous women — gender perspectives

24. Culture, loosely defined as shared values, beliefs, practices, in short as a “way of life”, is intimately interwoven with the process of development and has thus become infused with power relations on a global scale. As anthropological critiques of the dominant development models have pointed out, public discussions about development are influenced by ethnocentricisms and value systems of the consumer-based, free market societies, i.e., Western-based and male-oriented systems of knowledge are given predominance, while indigenous and traditional systems of knowledge are being devalued, ignored or seen as mere “obstacles to development”. Knowledge systems of indigenous women, as the essence of their cultural expression and identity, are thus faced with the double bias of Western and male forms of ethnocentrism.

25. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has examined the collective and individual proposals submitted by indigenous organizations, representatives of the United Nations system and Member States in order to follow up the recommendations contained in its report on its second session, in particular those contained in chapter I, section B, paragraphs 93, 103 and 105 of the report.  

Recommendations to member States

26. The Forum, noting that work will commence shortly on a convention of cultural diversity, requests member States to work with representatives of indigenous peoples to UNESCO to develop a document that adequately protects indigenous cultural heritage.

27. The Forum recommends that member States adopt legislation acknowledging that the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples is their inalienable cultural heritage and embodies their cultural identity and that they make available such legislation and information in local indigenous languages.

28. The Forum encourages member States to facilitate the establishment of civil society organizations, including indigenous organizations, to assist in the preservation and protection of indigenous cultural heritage.

29. The Forum recommends that Governments hold sports and athletic games involving indigenous sports.

30. The Forum recommends that member States ratify the Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage and ensure that it is fully implemented.

31. The Forum recommends that member States put in place policies and mechanisms to increase indigenous women’s access to markets and capital in order to enable them to turn their traditional skills into sustainable forms of income generation.

Recommendations to the United Nations system

32. All United Nations systems organizations should recognize that indigenous cultures are intrinsically connected to indigenous peoples’ traditional territories (lands, waters and natural resources).
33. Within the framework of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and its Action Plan, the Forum recommends that:

(a) All United Nations bodies and Governments initiate new ethnographic studies that re-evaluate stereotypical views on gender relationships within indigenous populations in order to challenge existing misconceptions by highlighting diverse community roles in which indigenous women wield real power and play leadership roles;

(b) Member States with indigenous populations develop multicultural public policies with a view to implementing the contents of the Declaration and strengthening, in an equitable manner, local cultures;

(c) UNESCO promote the recovery of underwater indigenous heritage, the oral tradition and ancient writings with a view to recognizing them as the heritage of humanity.

34. The Forum recommends:

(a) That the appropriate agencies, including those engaged in development activities, consider the protection of sacred species;

(b) That UNESCO focus attention on the ratification of the Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage and on its effective implementation at national levels;

(c) That UNESCO explore the links between the protection of tangible cultural heritage, intangible cultural heritage and sacred sites and other related UNESCO instruments with a view to broadening, strengthening and streamlining the protection of (indigenous) cultural heritage;

(d) That UNESCO facilitate the participation of both the Forum and indigenous peoples’ representatives in all relevant meetings of interest to them;

(e) Noting that the current UNESCO endangered languages programme seeks only to record endangered (indigenous) languages, that UNESCO expand its endangered languages programme to record, revive and reintroduce indigenous languages, in cooperation with indigenous peoples. This should include projects that support training in and teaching of indigenous languages at the community level.

35. The Forum recommends that UNESCO, other cultural institutions and academic institutions:

(a) Recognize and document the diversity of gender relations in indigenous communities based on active community input and participation;

(b) Examine and document women’s spheres of power in indigenous societies, taking into account traditional mechanisms of gender definition and distinction (e.g., pollution/purity, gender-specific roles in ritual, gendered division of labour);

(c) Examine and document the instrumental role of women in indigenous societies as the custodians of sacred knowledge and power, and as medical specialists;

(d) Highlight and give recognition to women’s instrumental roles in indigenous societies as educators, healers and ritual specialists;

(e) Highlight indigenous women’s traditional skills, arts and crafts and publicize them through the media, cultural institutions etc.
36. The Forum encourages the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and its member States to take practical steps to ensure that the inappropriate and unauthorized documentation and publication of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions/folklore does not occur, and to reinforce the capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities to make informed decisions in their own interests concerning whether and how documentation should be issued, including through the development of practical toolkits and guides which should have this as their aim.

37. Recognizing the important partnership of WIPO and the Forum, the Forum makes the following recommendations to further this working relationship:

   (a) The Forum strongly encourages representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities to participate actively in the work of WIPO in relation to genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions/folklore, in particular through the submission of comments, case studies and position papers, including on the new WIPO web page established for this purpose;

   (b) The Forum calls upon WIPO and member States, funds, foundations and other donors to provide funding to facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples, local communities and the Forum in sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore and in related consultations, caucuses, briefings and workshops;

   (c) The Forum recommends that, under the auspices of the Forum and in partnership with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, WIPO develop, in close consultation with indigenous peoples and local communities, the Forum and other organizations and stakeholders, as appropriate, guidelines, ethical codes of conduct, best practices and practical guides relating to intellectual property issues and the access to and use of traditional cultural expressions and knowledge by, among others, commercial users, ethnologists, folklorists and anthropologists, and museums and archives;

   (d) The Forum confirms its readiness and willingness to provide expert input to the work of WIPO on intellectual property, traditional knowledge and folklore, such as its work on studying how customary and indigenous laws and protocols could be recognized and applied within national, regional and international systems for the protection of traditional knowledge and cultural expressions.

38. The Forum recommends that the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNESCO, WIPO, the World Trade Organization and other relevant United Nations system organizations, under the auspices of the Forum, establish guidelines, ethical codes of conduct, best practices and practical guidelines relating to indigenous peoples, cultural heritage and the access to and use of traditional cultural expressions and knowledge, in close cooperation with indigenous peoples.

39. The Forum supports the participation of indigenous athletes, including indigenous women athletes, in the Olympic Games, and joins the General Assembly in underlining the significance of the Olympic Truce in the interests of peace and human rights.
4. Human rights

Introduction

40. The Forum reiterates its recommendations made at its second session, in particular those contained in chapter I, section B, paragraphs 83 to 94 of the report.2

41. In the spirit of the special theme of its third session, “indigenous women”, the Forum recognizes that the instruments relating to human rights, including the fundamental rights of indigenous women and girls, have been elaborated. Nevertheless, indigenous women continue to be one of the most marginalized groups in many countries, being victims of serious acts of discrimination and flagrant violations of their fundamental rights. The continuing gap between the proclamation and the implementation of human rights is largely due to the lack of commitment on the part of Governments to fully promote and protect those rights, as well as to the lack of awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms in society, including at the community level.

Recommendations to member States

42. The Forum recommends that Governments:

(a) Respect the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples, in particular women and children, and ensure that they are able to exercise these rights in accordance with international human rights standards;

(b) Include relevant information on the rights of indigenous peoples, in particular indigenous women, in the reports presented to the Committee on the Elimination of All Discrimination against Women and other relevant human rights bodies;

(c) Create mechanisms to ensure access to legal processes, especially for indigenous women, to enable them to take advantage of available juridical instruments including free legal aid, in cases of violations of their fundamental rights;

(d) Encourage the appointment of qualified indigenous women to decision-making positions in the areas of administration and public service.

Recommendations to the United Nations system

43. The Forum recommends that the relevant United Nations entities, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in particular its Division for the Advancement of Women, UNICEF, UNIFEM, the Department of Public Information and ILO:

(a) Encourage the dissemination of information in indigenous languages at the local level, concerning the rights of indigenous peoples, especially indigenous women;

(b) Encourage and support the training of indigenous women in human rights and the rule of law;

(c) Provide technical assistance to governments to establish the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples, especially indigenous women.
44. The Forum recommends that Governments and international organizations encourage indigenous peoples to participate fully in the work of reconciliation and truth commissions. The Forum welcomes the contribution of a paper by the Division for the Advancement of Women on the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see E/C.19/2004/CRP.7) and recommends that the Committee enhance its monitoring of the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women regarding indigenous women, and that it prepare and adopt a general comment on indigenous women, with the full participation of indigenous women.

45. The Forum recommends that all human rights treaty bodies and other human rights mechanisms of the United Nations and the treaty monitoring mechanisms of ILO pay special attention to the human rights of indigenous peoples, in particular indigenous women, in the discharge of their mandates. The Forum also encourages indigenous women’s organizations and other organizations working in this area to enhance their cooperation and contacts with these mechanisms.

46. The Forum urges the meeting of chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies and the meeting of the special rapporteurs and other mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights organized by the Office of the High Commissioner to place indigenous peoples, including indigenous women, on their agenda and invite the Forum to participate.

47. The Forum calls on all relevant United Nations system and other intergovernmental entities to pay special attention to the human rights and concerns of indigenous peoples, in particular indigenous women, when designing, implementing and evaluating their policies and programmes, and to promote the meaningful participation of indigenous women. In particular, the relation of indigenous women’s issues to the design, implementation and evaluation of programmes, in the context of the 10-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action on Human Rights and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, needs to be addressed.

48. The Forum expresses its appreciation to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples for their participation at its third session, and recommends that they pay special attention to the factors contributing to violence against indigenous women, especially domestic violence and sexual abuse.

49. The Forum takes note of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples following his latest visits to Chile, Colombia and Mexico. The Forum calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner to elaborate technical cooperation programmes to assist in the implementation of the recommendations.

50. The special rapporteurs, as well as other mechanisms relevant to the Commission on Human Rights, are encouraged to study the effects of armed conflict on the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples, especially on women and children.

51. The Forum expresses its great concern about the effects of armed conflict on indigenous women and children, and recommends that a workshop be convened with the framework of the 10-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in order to formulate strategies to protect vulnerable groups, such as
indigenous peoples, especially taking into account the vulnerabilities of indigenous women and children. These strategies should incorporate capacity-building of indigenous women living in areas of armed conflict or in precarious circumstances.

52. On the basis of information received at its third session, the Forum expresses its deep concern about the alleged atrocities and human rights violations committed against the indigenous peoples concerned in Colombia, the Sudan, Ethiopia and Indonesia, notably West Papua and Maluku, and atrocities committed against the indigenous peoples in other parts of the world. It urges the entire United Nations system, including the relevant bodies, to take appropriate action.

53. The Forum welcomes the nomination of the High Commissioner, Justice Louise Arbor, and recommends that she convene a meeting with the Forum members.

54. The Forum requests the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples to undertake a study on the United Nations decolonization process and on the Special Committee on Decolonization to assess its historical and current impact on the human rights of indigenous peoples of the non-self-governing territories. Furthermore, the Forum requests the Secretary-General to undertake a mid-decade review of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism to determine whether substantial progress has been made in achieving the goals of the Second Decade and to identify proposals for addressing obstacles to achieving the goals of the Second Decade.

5. Economic and social development

Introduction

55. The Forum reiterates its recommendations on economic and social development made at its second session, in particular those contained in chapter I, section B, paragraphs 26-28, 33-34, 36, 39 and 44 of the report.\textsuperscript{2}

56. Indigenous women throughout the world are among the most marginalized groups, suffering discrimination not only on the basis of gender but on the basis of race, culture and class as well. The complex interaction of the combined factors of colonization, the spread of western-style capitalism, globalization, nationalism, and top-down and paternalistic approaches to development have provided a social and economic environment whereby indigenous women have suffered from the effects of poverty, the breakdown of traditional social mechanisms and institutions, violence and militarization, dislocation and migration, and the depletion of their natural environment and resources.

Recommendations to member States

57. The Forum recommends that Governments integrate a gender framework that encompasses all areas of their work, including their agricultural and economic policies, and include in their policies actions that directly benefit indigenous women, through the following measures:

(a) Provide access for indigenous women to funding from public budgets;

(b) Create specific measures that enhance women’s participation in their own development processes;
(c) Create national policies that generate employment for indigenous women;

(d) Improve indigenous women’s access to education and the development of their skills, and reform education systems so that they allow women to take advantage of training and employment opportunities;

(e) Strengthen programmes in indigenous communities that ensure benefits for indigenous women.

58. The Forum urges Governments, in addressing economic and social development issues, to make efforts to adopt general strategies that include considerations for the needs and rights of indigenous peoples in the policies, laws and administrative issues that affect them, and they should include participation and consultations with indigenous peoples. Governments should also consider implementing special policies directed to employment creation for indigenous peoples, facilitating access to credit and the creation of small and medium-sized businesses.

**Recommendations to the United Nations system**

59. The Forum recommends that all relevant United Nations entities and Governments:

(a) Advise Governments to revise their national legal and administrative frameworks to ensure indigenous women’s equal rights and access to social and economic services and resources, including land ownership;

(b) Identify and give recognition to the capacities of indigenous women and their specialized knowledge in the areas of health, natural environment, traditional technologies, crafts and arts, and design appropriate employment and income-generating strategies;

(c) Provide indigenous women with the appropriate education and training resources so that they can effectively access and participate in mainstream national, regional and international economic institutions.

60. The Forum urges all relevant United Nations entities, especially UNDP, UNIFEM, UNICEF and UNFPA, to:

(a) Develop methodologies and strategies to research the underlying causes of the “feminization” and “indigenization” of poverty and to develop programmes, which effectively address these underlying causes of marginalization;

(b) Perform systematic needs assessments for indigenous women based on the information provided by indigenous women’s groups and NGOs;

(c) Involve local, indigenous women in a decision-making capacity in all aspects of the programme cycle.

61. The Forum requests international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank and other regional organizations, to design special programmes for indigenous women to provide them with access to capital and microfinance programmes, taking into account the traditional mechanisms of each community.
62. The Forum recommends that the United Nations system continue its advocacy work on indigenous connectivity in preparation for phase II of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in 2005, taking into account the Declaration of the Global Forum of Indigenous Peoples and the Information Society and the Programme of Action. The Forum supports and applauds the decision taken by the Summit to establish multi-stakeholder portals that allow communication between indigenous peoples at the national level.

63. The Forum urges the United Nations funds, agencies and programmes and multilateral cooperation entities, including UNIFEM, to adopt policies and strengthen existing funds for financing and supporting indigenous women’s participation, strengthening their own participation and social development options in all initiatives that promote their cultural identities.

64. The Forum recognizes the importance of the Millennium Development Goals in the realization of social and economic development for indigenous peoples, and therefore calls upon United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to work in collaboration with indigenous peoples to achieve such objectives.

65. The Forum recommends that United Nations agencies, funds and programmes strengthen their work on migration and its effects on indigenous peoples, and develop policies and outreach programmes for indigenous migrant and urban peoples.

66. The Forum invites the Economic and Social Council and the regional commissions to present reports on the economic situation, scenarios and impacts of free-trade policies, especially the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, with emphasis on indigenous peoples.

67. The Forum is fully aware of the close links between conflict and poverty. Conflicts cause poverty and reverse development. The Forum invites those United Nations agencies, funds and programmes working in areas of conflict to consider the special needs of indigenous peoples in their work.

68. The Forum takes note with appreciation of the focus and work of UN-Habitat, particularly regarding the ongoing study jointly initiated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on indigenous peoples and the right to adequate housing, and recommends that UN-Habitat submit a report on the conclusions and recommendations of this study to the Forum at its fourth session, and that it participate in the dialogue.

69. The Forum recommends to the United Nations Development Group that the indicators of the Millennium Development Goals be assessed and that additional indicators be identified to give fuller assessment of environmental sustainability.

70. The Forum reaffirms the UNDP focus on implementing its policy of working with indigenous peoples at the country level, and urges UNDP to continue its work to develop a policy on land tenure rights with the participation of indigenous peoples.

71. The Forum recommends that UNDP continue its work on supporting local-level initiatives, such as the equator initiative, the community water initiative, the community-based initiative and the assisting communities together project.
72. The Forum recommends that the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in collaboration with multilateral and regional agencies and indigenous organizations, lead the mainstreaming of indigenous issues and concerns in poverty reduction strategies at the country level. In view of the decreasing support to pastoral and semi-nomadic groups in Africa, the Forum recommends that IFAD initiate programmes in support of these groups and submit its planned work programme to the Forum at its fourth session.

6. Environment

73. Recognizing the progress made and building upon the recommendations made in its reports on its first and second sessions, the Forum provides the recommendations set out below.

74. The Forum notes with deep appreciation the reports and responses of United Nations bodies on environment, and reaffirms its recommendations on environment made at its second session, in particular those contained in chapter I, section B, paragraphs 46-49, 54-57, and 59-61 of the report.2

75. The Forum recognizes the unique contributions made by indigenous women in terms of possessing and transmitting through the generations a wealth of traditional knowledge on the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable environmental management, and calls on the secretariat of the Convention for Biological Diversity, UNEP and all relevant United Nations bodies to mainstream indigenous gender issues and knowledge in national environmental policies and programmes.

Convention on Biological Diversity

76. The Forum notes with appreciation decisions VII/16 A-1 of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its ongoing work with respect to traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities covering many areas for future works to be jointly undertaken by the Convention and the Forum.

77. The Forum:

(a) Urges all Governments and the international community to fully apply the AKWE:KON guidelines for any proposed development on sacred sites and lands and water traditionally occupied by indigenous and local communities;

(b) Welcomes the establishment of a trust fund for the participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and urges Governments to provide funding to ensure an adequate level of participation by indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention;

(c) Notes the decision by the Conference of Parties to the Convention to negotiate, within the framework of the Convention, an international regime on access to genetic resources and the sharing of benefits arising from their realization, and emphasizes that such negotiations should be developed and should allow the full participation of members of the Forum and indigenous representatives to participate in the negotiations;

(d) Urges indigenous and local communities to contribute actively to the work of the secretariat of the Convention on the composite report on the status and trends of traditional knowledge to ensure that the report is truly reflective of the
concerns of indigenous and local communities with regard to the loss of traditional knowledge of relevance to biological diversity;

(e) Recommends that the Executive Secretary of the Convention organize, in coordination with other relevant agencies, a workshop on indicators to measure progress in the objectives of the multi-year programme of work and other programmes of work, with the full participation of indigenous peoples and their organizations, in order to incorporate the necessary human and social indicators;

(f) Recommends that the Convention’s ad hoc open-ended working group on article 8 (j) advance its mandate to develop mechanisms for the effective sui generis systems of protection based on customary laws of indigenous peoples, especially in the light of the decision of the Conference of Parties to the Convention to increase the pace in the elaboration and implementation of a proposed international regime on access and benefit-sharing.

Waste, chemicals and pollution

78. The Forum recommends that the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change sponsor a workshop to discuss the merits and mechanisms for the establishment of a working group on indigenous peoples within the Conference of the Parties process, ensuring the participation of indigenous peoples from developed and undeveloped countries as well as interested member States.

Millennium ecosystem assessment

79. The Forum recommends that the findings of the millennium ecosystem assessment and its recommendations concerning the environment be submitted to it at its fourth session, and that the participation of indigenous peoples be taken into account by the assessment in the review of its reports, analysis and findings.

Parks and protected areas

80. The Forum recommends that the World Conservation Union Congress, to be held in November 2004 in Bangkok, endorse the recommendations on indigenous peoples and protected areas, as well as other relevant recommendations (such as on sacred sites) adopted by the Fifth World Parks Congress. It should also emphasize the need for the recognition of community conserved areas and indigenous peoples’ protected areas, the need for the full respect for indigenous peoples’ rights and the need for indigenous peoples’ free prior informed consent to be obtained before the declaration or in the management of any protected area which may affect them.

Water resources management

81. The Forum recommends that Governments provide public water and sanitation systems to the villages and rural areas where indigenous people live, and control the pollution of rivers and streams affected by pollution from such toxic chemicals as pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and industrial waste. The Forum also recommends Governments to create programmes to clean up the rivers and streams that have already been polluted and to ban further pollution by agribusiness and industries.

82. The Forum recommends that Governments conduct studies on how the diversion of rivers and creation of dams, mining and mineral extraction, energy
development, the mining of groundwater and the use of aquifers for industrial and commercial purposes will affect the lives of indigenous communities prior to conducting any of these actions in order to ensure that indigenous peoples are not confronted with such problems as increasing scarcity of freshwater, the toxic contamination of indigenous peoples’ territories and the lack of access of indigenous communities and other life forms to water, including oceans.

Other environmental conventions

83. The Forum recommends that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna facilitate the full and effective participation, including funding, of indigenous peoples, particularly women and youth, and the Forum in the work to implement these conventions, and involve them fully in policy formulation and in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of environmental programmes or projects.

United Nations Forum on Forests and forest-related United Nations bodies

84. The Forum recommends that the United Nations Forum on Forests develop effective means to monitor and verify the participation of indigenous peoples in forest policy-making and sustainable forest management, and establish a mechanism, with the participation of indigenous peoples, to assess the performance of governmental and intergovernmental commitments and obligations to uphold and respect indigenous peoples’ rights.

Capacity-building for indigenous peoples

85. The Forum recommends that the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant United Nations bodies such as UNEP, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), UNDP, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the World Bank, WIPO, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, support indigenous peoples’ organizations in order to develop capacity on research, work and proposals on human indicators applicable to the implementation of the environmental conventions and the plans and programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

7. Health

86. The Forum reiterates its health recommendations made at its first and second sessions, in particular those contained in chapter I, section B, paragraphs 63 to 82 of its report on its second session.2

Introduction: challenges

87. The Beijing Platform for Action, the Cairo Declaration and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Millennium Development Goals stress the importance of investment in health as a prerequisite for reversing the cycle of poverty. They emphasize the need to approach women’s health issues from a holistic perspective, taking into account their emotional, physical and social well-being, and to recognize the connections which
exist between health and other priorities of human development, such as education, demographic balance, human rights and economic productivity.

88. Indigenous women in many areas of the world are suffering from the alarming deterioration of health conditions within their communities. Inadequate and limited access to health services, lack of culturally appropriate approaches to health care, lack of outreach clinics in remote areas, deteriorating quality of air, water and land due to unchecked industrial development are just a few of the factors contributing to this downward trend. Other socio-economic factors, such as the alarming number of indigenous women (especially in Asia) being trafficked and sold into prostitution, have led to the rapid spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and other sexually transmitted diseases into indigenous communities, destroying their social fabric. Changes in the traditional social, cultural and political institutions have led to an erosion or loss of practices and culturally appropriate health rules and codes of behaviour which have been instrumental in ensuring gender-sensitive approaches to health.

Recommendations to the United Nations system and member States

89. The goals of the Forum in this area are the promotion of cooperation, the exchange of information and the development of partnerships, as well as to improve coordination by facilitating regular contacts and reports. The Forum intends to address and report on this theme on an annual basis. The Forum, reaffirming its recommendations on health made at its first and second reports, in the spirit of the theme of its third session (Indigenous women), recommends that all relevant United Nations entities, especially WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA, as well as regional health organizations and Governments:

(a) Fully incorporate the principle that health is a fundamental human right in all health policies and programmes, and foster rights-based approaches to health, including treaty rights, the right to culturally acceptable and appropriate services and indigenous women’s reproductive rights, and stop programmes of forced sterilization and abortion, which can constitute ethnic genocide;

(b) Further develop and disseminate information about innovative strategies in health services to indigenous women, informed by indigenous concepts and understanding of health, wellness, healing, illness, disease, sexuality and birthing so as to ensure universal and accessible health-care services for indigenous women and girl children, and make available adequate financial and technical support for comprehensive, community-based, primary health services and health education, incorporating traditional indigenous components;

(c) Train and employ qualified indigenous women to design, administer and manage their own health-care programmes;

(d) Set up monitoring mechanisms for indigenous communities to report abuses and neglect with the health system to national health authorities, and put in place the legal framework to effectively address these issues;

(e) Encourage States to include and accredit traditional, indigenous health practitioners (physicians), including traditional birth attendants (midwives), and integrate them into state health-care systems, and give full recognition to the medicinal knowledge and medicines of these indigenous practitioners;
(f) Augment HIV/AIDS programmes by providing educational materials in indigenous languages and by using specially trained indigenous HIV/AIDS health workers to conduct outreach services and home care to indigenous communities, including voluntary testing for HIV/AIDS;

(g) Ensure that indigenous peoples, especially women, have access to all information relating to their medical treatment and to secure their prior informed consent to medical treatment;

(h) Provide appropriate health services and protection services, including safe houses, to displaced refugee and migrant women and women and girl children victimized by trafficking for prostitution;

(i) Implement the recommendations of the international consultation on health of indigenous peoples, held in Geneva at WHO in 1999, with special emphasis on the recommendations concerning the health of women and girls and the role of women in health care, indigenous knowledge and service provisions;

(j) Develop, in conjunction with indigenous women health providers, programmes to inform and sensitize indigenous women and men about cultural practices which have negative impacts on health, including female genital mutilation, child marriages and violence against women and the girl child in the domestic context, in order to encourage them to take precautions and safeguard the health and well being of the indigenous family;

(k) Ensure that the treatment of diseases is balanced by the promotion of health through the support of physical activity, sports and physical education in order to address escalating health concerns through prevention.

Other specific issues

90. The Forum urges WHO to attend its sessions, and encourages WHO to submit a report to it at its fourth session, responding to recommendations made by the Forum at its first to third sessions. The Forum regrets that WHO was unable to respond to its recommendations made at its second session, in particular those contained in chapter I, section B, paragraphs 16, 63-64, 68, 74, 79 and 82.

91. The Forum recommends that the Special Rapporteur on the right to health examine the disparity of health standards for indigenous peoples in developed countries in the light of the fact that United Nations agencies and specialized entities, including WHO, do not undertake health programmes in developed countries.

92. The Forum recommends that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, in conjunction with the Forum, convene an international workshop, with the participation of United Nations agencies and indigenous experts, on indigenous peoples and the human right to health and culturally appropriate health care.

93. The Forum requests the United Nations Development Group, which includes WHO, to make a report on how it is addressing the Millennium Development Goals, with particular focus on indigenous peoples. The report should identify obstacles and constraints at the state, regional, and global levels, and should make recommendations to address these obstacles. The report should be presented to the Forum at its fourth session.
94. The Forum requests Governments to prepare reports on their experience and case studies as to how they are addressing indigenous people’s health and the Millennium Development Goals, and to submit their reports to the Forum at its fourth session.

8. Future work of the Forum

Contribution of the Inter-Agency Support Group

95. The Forum expresses its appreciation to the Inter-Agency Support Group for its contribution to its work during its third session and in-between sessions, as well as for the documents provided to the Forum. The Forum also expresses its appreciation for the attendance of the session by representatives of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, renews its invitation to the United Nations system to continue to attend its sessions, and expresses the hope that this constructive engagement will continue.

Future work with the United Nations system and member States

96. The Forum requests:

(a) That each United Nations agency and organization make the Forum’s recommendations formally available to its governing body, assembly or other relevant high-level committee or organ, drawing particular attention to the recommendations specifically addressed to the organization or body concerned;

(b) That member States take into account the recommendations of the Forum in developing policies on the governing bodies of organizations to which they are members.

97. The Forum urges international donor agencies, regional organizations and States to incorporate indigenous people’s issues in the formulation of sector policies for development cooperation and to address indigenous peoples’ issues in their joint development programmes and projects to ensure that indigenous peoples and their issues are effectively mainstreamed into their work.

98. The Forum recommends that the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)/Development Assistance Committee (DAC) invite the Forum to its fourth session to make a presentation on the work of the Forum and explore future collaboration.

Trust Fund

99. The Forum notes with satisfaction the recent activation of the Trust Fund for the support of the Forum, expresses its deep appreciation and thanks to all those who contributed to it and calls upon Governments, foundations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to give generously to the Fund.

Information

100. The Forum welcomes the preparation of daily press releases in English, French and Spanish on the discussions of the Forum during its session. The Forum recommends:
the Department of Public Information, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Forum, to:

(a) Ensure the widest distribution of the press releases;

(b) Develop an overall strategy to fulfil the mandate of the Forum to disseminate information on indigenous peoples and their issues.

**Follow-up to global conferences, workshops and previous themes of the Forum**

101. The Forum decides to devote special attention to the follow-up to global United Nations conferences, and in that regard requests its secretariat to prepare a technical background paper.

102. Recalling its workshop on data collection and disaggregation concerning indigenous peoples (see E/C.19/2004/2), the Forum takes note with satisfaction of the recommendations and intends to:

(a) Request the World Bank to undertake a study on poverty and indigenous peoples in connection with disaggregation of data, and to present the results to the Forum at its fifth session;

(b) Devote in-sessional time to in-depth discussions and exchange of good practices concerning the disaggregation of data.

103. Recalling the special theme of its second session, “Indigenous children and youth”, the Permanent Forum confirms its commitment to make indigenous children and youth an ongoing part of its work. In so doing, it acknowledges the efforts made by organizations representing indigenous peoples, United Nations bodies, especially the Committee on the Rights of the Child and States, to address the urgent needs of indigenous children and youth, and encourages partners of the Forum towards further collaboration regarding this crucial cross-cutting issue.

**Implementation monitoring**

104. The Forum takes note with satisfaction of the enhanced contributions of the United Nations system in its work, and recommends that the United Nations system, Governments, indigenous and other organizations further assist in the implementation and monitoring of the Forum’s recommendations and report to the Forum at its annual sessions. The Forum notes with appreciation the database of recommendations and their implementation status, as well as indicative time frames prepared by its secretariat, and recommends that the secretariat further develop this as a useful tool.

**Visas**

105. The Forum anticipates that the host country will do its utmost to assure the issuance in a timely manner of entry visas to members of the Forum and observers from non-governmental organizations, pursuant to article IV, section 11, of the Headquarters Agreement, in order to attend its sessions. The Forum also anticipates that other member States hosting United Nations meetings to which indigenous organizations are invited will also do their utmost to ensure the timely issuance of entry visas. The Forum further requests that consideration be given to the waiving of visa fees by host countries for applicants wishing to participate in the work of the Forum and related meetings and activities.
United Nations fellowship programmes

106. The Forum welcomes the establishment of the indigenous fellowship programme in its secretariat, and calls upon Governments, foundations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to give generously to the Trust Fund of the Secretary-General in support of the Forum, and to earmark their donations for the fellowship programme.

107. The Forum recognizes and applauds other indigenous fellowship programmes, in particular the fellowship programme established and funded by the regular budget of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the newly established fellowship programme of the ILO. Furthermore, the Forum particularly recognizes the capacity-building efforts of the indigenous fellowship programme of the Office and requests that, in order to complement their Geneva-based training, the indigenous fellows at the Office should participate, on an annual basis, in the sessions of the Forum. Further consideration should also be given to provide some time for training at the secretariat of the Forum, during non-sessional periods.

108. The Forum, recognizing the need for complementarity and coordination of indigenous training and education within the United Nations system, recommends that training and education partners within the United Nations system, in particular the ILO, the Office and other relevant agencies, hold discussions in order to develop a coordinated approach and a common electronic gateway to all education and training opportunities for indigenous peoples within the international system. As the United Nations body for coordination regarding indigenous issues, the Forum will construct the web site of the Forum available for such a gateway.

109. The Forum, further recognizing the long-term benefits for indigenous peoples of training and education opportunities within the United Nations system, such as the establishment of an indigenous fellowship network by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, requests the Office to invite Permanent Forum Members and the secretariat of the Forum to the meeting of the indigenous fellowship network, scheduled to be held August 2004 in Barcelona.

Methodological points

110. Taking into account the Secretary-General’s recommendation to make the twenty-first century “The age of prevention”, the wish of the Forum to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and feed into the 10-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action process, the complex cross-cutting nature of issues facing United Nations bodies in formulating appropriate policies, programmes and projects to address the problems of indigenous and tribal communities, and the strong recommendations by indigenous peoples that such policies, programmes and projects should be based on a holistic approach befitting their spiritual values and way of life, the Permanent Forum decides to organize its work for 2005 and onwards around cross-cutting themes that relate directly to the Millennium Development Goals, while considering all the mandated areas of the Permanent Forum.

111. The Forum also decides to give ongoing priority to two other cross-cutting issues:
(a) Data collection and segregation as a follow-up of recommendations by the technical workshop on data collection;


112. The Forum intends to pursue the agenda of mainstreaming indigenous issues into the process of the Millennium Development Goals and applying the thematic approach to build up a three-year programme of work. The Forum intends moreover to focus on implementation and urges United Nations bodies, States and indigenous peoples to engage actively in the dialogue on these issues, sharing good practices and barriers to implementation.

113. The Forum decides to hold a meeting of four of its members with the Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) at its annual session of IASG, in 2004.

114. The Forum decides to form a working group, including experts on statistics, to set directions for future statistical work, including that of the United Nations Statistics Division, and also decides that representatives from the Forum shall participate in scientific meetings to improve statistics in this area of work, such as the upcoming meeting sponsored by the International Association of Official Statisticians meeting, to be held in New Zealand on 14 and 15 April 2005, on the theme “Measuring small and indigenous populations”.

Notes

1 This draft decision was previously recommended by the Forum at its second session; see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 23 (E/2003/43), chap. I, sect. A, draft decision VII.

2 See ibid.
Chapter II

Introduction

1. The Forum held its first session at United Nations Headquarters from 13 to 24 May 2002 and submitted its report to the Economic and Social Council.¹

2. The Forum held its second session at United Nations Headquarters from 12 to 23 May 2003.²

3. By its decision 2003/304, the Council decided that the third session of the Forum would be held at United Nations Headquarters from 10 to 21 May 2004.

Notes


² Ibid., 2003, Supplement No. 23 (E/2003/43).
Chapter III

Theme of the session: “Indigenous women”

1. The Forum considered item 3 of its agenda in the form of a high-level panel at its 2nd to 4th and 17th meetings, on 10, 11 and 21 May 2004.

2. At its 2nd meeting, on 10 May, the Chairman acted as Moderator and presentations were made by Njuma Ekundanayo, Vice-Chairperson of the Forum, Kyung-wha Kang, Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women, Stella Tamang, Chairperson of the International Indigenous Women’s Caucus, and Fanny Pocaterra, on behalf of Noeli Pocaterra, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of Venezuela.

3. At the same meeting, the Forum engaged in an interactive dialogue and interventions were made by the following members of the Forum: Qin Xiaomei, Mililani Trask and Fortunato Turpo Choquehuanca.

4. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following countries and organizations: International Indigenous Women’s Caucus, UNICEF, Australia, Caucus de Mujeres Indígenas de America Latina y el Caribe, IFAD, Canada and Africa Region.

5. At its 3rd meeting, on 13 May, the Forum continued its discussion on the item and statements were made by the observers for the following countries and organizations: Pacific Caucus, FAO, Chile, Mexico, Native Women’s Association of Canada/Assembly of First Nations, Denmark, Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas.

6. At the same meeting, statements were made by the following members of the Forum: Otila Lux de Coti, Njuma Ekundanayo, Marcos Matias Alonso, Antonio Jacanamijoy, Parshuram Tamang, Ida Nicolaisen.


8. At the same meeting, representatives of the Inter-Agency Support Group and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations also made statements.
Action taken by the Forum

9. At its 17th meeting, on 21 May, the Forum adopted its draft recommendations on item 3 (E/C.19/2004/L.3) (see chap. I, sect. B) and took note of the Chairperson’s summary of the discussions of the high-level panel on the item (see annex I).
Chapter IV
Mandated areas

1. The Forum considered item 4 of its agenda at its 3rd to 14th and 17th meetings, from 11 to 19 and on 21 May 2004.

A. Education

2. At its 3rd meeting, on 11 May, the Forum considered sub-item 4 (f) and presentations were made by the following panellists: Qin Xiaomei, member of the Forum; Tove Skutnabb-Kangas, Department of Languages and Culture, University of Roskilde, Denmark, and Department of Education, Abo Akademi University, Vasa, Finland; Linda King, Section for Education for Peace and Human Rights, UNESCO. The Chairperson also made a statement on the sub-item.

3. Statements were made by the following observers: UNICEF, First Nations North and South, Erica-Irene Daes, Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

4. At its 4th meeting, on 11 May, statements on the item were made by the following observers: Indigenous Women’s Caucus, Ecuador, Pacific Caucus.


6. At the same meeting, the following members of the Forum made statements: Willie Littlechild, Marcos Matias Alonso, Fortunato Turpo Choquehuana, Ida Nicolaisen.

B. Culture

7. At its 6th meeting, on 12 May, the Forum considered sub-item 4 (e) and statements were made by the following observers: UNDP, WIPO, UN-Habitat, Finland, American Indian Law Association/Seventh Generation Fund, Mexico, Montagnard Foundation, Flying Eagle Women, International Indigenous Women’s Caucus, Conseil des Innus du Nitassinan, Caribbean Antilles Indigenous Peoples Caucus, Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation, African Indigenous Women Organization, Te Runanga o NGAI TAHU/Treaty Tribes Coalition, RAPA-NUI.

8. At the same meeting, the Chairperson made a statement and the following members of the Forum also made statements: Otila Lux de Coti, Willie Littlechild, Mililani Trask, Wayne Lord.

9. At its 7th meeting, on 13 May, the Forum continued its discussion of the item and heard statements by the following observers: Pacific Caucus, Guatemala, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, Viet Nam, Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, Servicios en Comunicación Intercultural, FAO, Conclave de America Latina, Defensoria de los Pueblos Indígenas del Ecuador en America, Taymaynut/IPACC, Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, Tebtebba Foundation, World Hmong Peoples’ Congress, Asociacion de Cabildos Indígenas del Norte del Cauca, Asian Indigenous Caucus, Conclave de Pueblos Indígenas de Brasil.

10. At the same meeting, the following members of the Forum made statements: Njuma Ekundanayo, Marcos Matias Alonso, Ayitegan Kouevi, Parshuram Tamang, Ida Nicolaisen.

11. At its 8th meeting, on 13 May, the Forum concluded its discussion of the sub-item and heard statements by the following observers: La Red Xicana Indígena/International Network of Indigenous Women, Norway, Enlace Continental de Mujeres de Sudamerica, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, First Nation North and South, Armenian Sisters, Consejo Indio de Sudamérica, Gambella Development Agency, Consejo Nacional de la Culture Nahuatl de Mexico.

C. Human rights

12. At its 8th meeting, on 13 May, the Forum considered sub-item 4 (d) and heard statements by the following observers: Indonesia, Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordination Committee, Habitat Pro Association, National Aboriginal Women Association, Femmes autochtones du Québec, Caribbean Antilles Indigenous Peoples Caucus, Conive-Red de Mujeres Indígenas Wayuu de Venezuela/Segunda Vice-Presidenta de la República Bolivariana Venezuela, World Hmong Peoples Congress, Unissons-nous pour la promotion des Batwa, Bangsa Adat Alifuru/’Ilio ‘ulaokalani Coalition/Prince Kujio Hawaiian Civic Club/The Koani Foundation/
Rapa Nui Parliament/Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu/Te Rapunga o Poutama/Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission/National Association for Community Legal Centres/National Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation/Presentation Association/World Council of Churches/Bureau of Consultation for West Papua Indigenous Community Development, Te Runanga o NGAI TAHU/Treaty Tribes Coalition, Peace Campaign Group, Consejo de Pueblos Nahuas del Alto Balsas Guerrero, Feminist Alliance for International Action, and Bawm Literatura Forum.

13. At the same meeting, the following members of the Forum made statements: Ayitegan Kouevi, Willie Littlechild.

14. At its 9th meeting, on 14 May, an interactive dialogue was conducted between the panellists Yakin Erturk, Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Erica-Irene Daes, Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and the following members of the Forum: Ayitegan Kouevi, Fortunato Turpo Choquehuanca, Willie Littlechild, Mililani Trask, Marcos Matias Alonso, Otíla Lux de Coti.

15. At the same meeting, the Forum heard statements by the following observers: Canada, Pacific Concerns Resource Center, Montagnard Foundation Inc., American Indian Law Alliance, Finland, International Labour Organization (ILO), Bangsa Adat Alifuru, Democratic Republic of the Congo, African Indigenous Women Organization, Conclave de los Pueblos Indígenas de America del Sud, New Zealand, Asamblea Nacional Indígena Plural por la Autonomía, Internacional Native Tradicional Interchange, Conclave de Pueblos Indígenas de Brasil, Grand Council of the Cree, Native Women’s Association of Canada, Asian Indigenous Caucus.

16. At its 10th meeting, on 14 May, another presentation was made by the following panellist: Marisela Padron, Director, Latin American and Caribbean Division, UNFPA.

18. Also at the same meeting, the following members of the Forum also made statements: Zinaida Strogalschikova, Ida Nicolaisen.

19. At its 11th meeting, on 17 May, the Chairperson made a statement. Presentations were also made by the following panellists: Rodolfo Stavenhagen, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, Miguel Alfonso Martinez, Chairperson/Rapporteur, Working Group on Indigenous Populations.


21. Also at the same meeting, the following members of the Forum made statements: Parshuram Tamang, Antonio Jacanamijoy, Ayitegan Kouevi, Otila Lux de Coti, Ida Nicolaisen, Marcos Matias Alonso, Mililani Trask, Wayne Lord, Fortunato Turpo Choquehuanca, Yuji Iwasawa.

D. Economic and social development


23. At the same meeting, statements were made by the following members of the Forum: Antonio Jacanamijoy, Fortunato Turpo Choquehuanca, Willie Littlechild.
E. Environment


25. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the following member of the Forum: Parshuram Tamang.

F. Health

26. At its 14th meeting, on 19 May, the Forum began its consideration of sub-item 4 (c). Presentations were made by the following panellists: Mililani Trask, Vice-Chairperson of the Forum, Siri Damman, University of Oslo, Norway.

27. At the same meeting, statements were made by the following observers: Pan American Health Organization (Regional Office of WHO), Association of Iroquois/Allied Indians, Canada, Caribbean Antilles Indigenous Peoples Caucus, Mexico, African Indigenous Women Organization/African Indigenous Peoples Caucus on Health, Nepal, Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation, Indigenous Peoples Caucus, Guatemala, WHO, Foundation for Aboriginal And Islander
28. At the same meeting, the following members of the Forum made statements: Ayitegan Kouevi, Otila Lux de Coti, Wilton Littlechild, Ida Nicolaisen.

Action taken by the Forum

29. At its 17th meeting, on 21 May, the Forum, in adopting the draft recommendations submitted under agenda item 4 (a) to (f), identified a number of proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action, and, through the Economic and Social Council, requested States, the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples, the private sector and NGOs to assist in their implementation (see chap. I.B).
Chapter V

Future work of the Forum

1. The Forum considered item 5 at its 15th to 17th meetings, on 20 and 21 May 2004.


3. At the same meeting, the following members of the Forum made statements: Yuji Iwasawa, Ayitegan Kouevi, Zinaida Strogalschikova.

4. At its 16th meeting, on 21 May, the Forum heard statements by the following observers: Khmer Kampuchea-Krom Federation, Haudenosaunee Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy, Consejo de Pueblos Nahuas del Alto Balsas, Guerrero.

5. At the same meeting, Wayne Lord, member of the Forum, made a statement.

Action taken by the Forum

6. At its 17th meeting, on 21 May, the Forum, in adopting the draft recommendations submitted under agenda item 5, identified a number of proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action, and, through the Economic and Social Council, requested States, the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples, the private sector and NGOs to assist in their implementation (see chap. I.B).
Chapter VI

Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Forum

1. The Forum considered item 6 at its 16th meeting, on 21 May, and heard statements by the following observers: Red de Cooperación Amazonia, Indigenous Women Caucus, IPACC, Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Caribbean Antilles Indigenous Peoples Caucus.

2. At the same meeting, Ida Nicolaisen, member of the Forum, made a statement.

Action taken by the Forum

3. At its 17th meeting, on 21 May, the Forum recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council two decisions on the provisional agenda for its fourth session (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision III) and the venue and dates for its fourth session (see chap. I., sect. A, draft decision IV).
Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Forum on its third session

1. At the 17th meeting, on 21 May, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Forum on its third session (E/C.19/2003/L.6).

2. At the same meeting, the Forum decided to recommend for adoption by the Economic and Social Council three draft decisions, on an intersessional meeting of the Forum, a workshop on free, prior and informed consent and a proposal for a second international decade of the world’s indigenous peoples (see chap. I. A, draft decisions I and VI).

3. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted its report on its third session.
Chapter VIII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Forum held its third session at United Nations Headquarters from 10 to 21 May 2004. It held 17 formal meetings (1st to 17th) and a number of informal meetings.

2. At the 1st meeting, on 10 May, the session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. During the inauguration ceremony, the floor was given to the Tadodaho Chief and Elder.

3. At the same meeting, a statement was made by Ole Henrik Magga, Chairperson of the Forum.

4. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary-General made a statement.

5. At the same meeting, the President of the Economic and Social Council made a statement, and representatives of the indigenous women delivered a special message.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made a statement.

7. At the same meeting, the observer for the Russian Federation made a statement.

8. At the 17th meeting, on 21 May, the President of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly addressed the Forum.

9. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development made a statement.

10. Also at the same meeting, the Chairman made a concluding statement.

B. Attendance

11. Members of the Forum and representatives of Governments, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental organizations, as well as of non-governmental organizations and indigenous organizations, attended the session. The list of participants is contained in annex II.

C. Election of officers

12. At its 1st meeting, on 10 May, the Forum elected the following members of the Bureau by acclamation:

Chairperson
Ole Henrik Magga
D. Agenda

13. At its 1st meeting, on 10 May, the Forum adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/C.19/2004/1, which read:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Mandated areas:
   (a) Economic and social development;
   (b) Environment;
   (c) Health;
   (d) Human rights;
   (e) Culture;
   (f) Education.
5. Future work of the Forum.
6. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Forum.
7. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its third session.

E. Documentation

14. The list of documents before the Forum at its third session is contained in annex III.
Annex I

Chairperson’s summary of the high-level panel and dialogue on indigenous women

I. Introduction

1. The composition of the panel included Njuma Ekundanayo, Vice-Chair of the Permanent Forum with the portfolio on gender, Kyung-wha Kang, Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, Noeli Pocaterra, Second Vice-President, National Assembly of Venezuela, and Stella Tamang, former Chairperson of the Indigenous Women’s Caucus. The panel was chaired by the Chairperson of the Forum, Ole Henrik Magga, who also made a statement. After the introductory statements by the panellists, the Permanent Forum heard the reports of the regional indigenous women’s conferences held in preparation of the Forum’s third session. A dialogue was held with Forum members and observers from Member States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, indigenous peoples’ organizations and non-governmental organizations.

II. Contextualizing indigenous women’s issues

2. Indigenous women, numbering more than 150 million throughout the world today, have been often invisible to international human rights, humanitarian and development institutions due to their marginalization and discrimination within their countries. However, the human rights, environmental and women’s movements, supported by major international initiatives, are beginning to focus their attention on the human rights and special needs and concerns of indigenous women.

3. Despite their great cultural and regional diversity, indigenous women are facing similar challenges today, such as social dislocation due to political conflicts and migration, poverty and underdevelopment due to environmental degradation and lack of access to public resources, and marginalization due to their cultural difference and minority status within States.

4. While specific local contexts vary, broader unifying themes and concerns, rooted in the common experience of colonization, globalization and nationalism, have emerged. Unified in their struggle for cultural survival, indigenous women have now been placed on the agenda of the international community as one of the “emerging key issues”, and they are responding by organizing themselves on the international, regional, national and local levels.

III. Challenges

5. While major anti-poverty campaigns have been launched by international agencies, the social and economic conditions for many indigenous communities in different parts of the world have worsened. Economic globalization can play a major role in the deterioration of the natural environment and subsistence-based food security, and has contributed to the out-migration of indigenous women to urban centres, where they are no longer under the protection of traditional law and become particularly vulnerable to forced labour, trafficking and prostitution.
6. In addition, widening regional conflicts, especially in Africa and Asia, have led to increasing militarization and gross human rights violations against indigenous women. These new disturbing trends exacerbate the pre-existing, chronic conditions of lack of adequate health care, education and sustainable forms of income generation faced by indigenous communities in many parts of the world. However, indigenous women’s groups have begun to speak out against what they perceive to be a collusion between Governments and multinational enterprises. They feel that the ensuing global processes of economic liberalization, deregulation and privatization seriously endanger their already tenable livelihoods and long-term survival.

IV. Policy recommendations

7. As these global processes have serious negative implications for indigenous women at the national and local levels, laws, policies, budgets and programmes must be put in place at the international, regional/national, and local levels as well if they are to effectively address these problems. Some of the issues addressed by the panellists included:

(a) At the international level:

(i) Mainstreaming indigenous women’s issues throughout the United Nations system is essential to design effective strategies and to increase the number of indigenous women in decision-making structures; ensuring that the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples and other human rights mechanisms pay adequate attention to indigenous women;

(ii) Disaggregated data: in order to effectively tackle the cross-cutting issues faced by indigenous women, the problem of lack of disaggregated and relevant data must be addressed by United Nations agencies and programmes;

(iii) Enhancing cultural sensitivity and local participation, taking into account culture-specific factors in programme design and execution;

(iv) Increasing indigenous women’s participation in decision-making and governance;

(v) Highlighting the issue of indigenous women’s migration, including human rights violations, trafficking and forced labour, as well as their impact on the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic;

(b) At the national level:

(i) The Forum recalls and reiterates:

a. Paragraph 18 of the Durban Declaration which requested States to adopt public policies and give impetus to programmes on behalf of and in concert with indigenous women and girls, with a view to promoting their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights; to putting an end to their situation of disadvantage for reasons of gender and ethnicity; to dealing with urgent problems affecting them in regard to education, their physical and mental health, economic life and in the matter of violence against them,
including domestic violence; and to eliminating the situation of aggravated discrimination suffered by indigenous women and girls on multiple grounds of racism and gender discrimination;

b. Paragraph 50 of the Declaration, which urged States to incorporate a gender perspective in all programmes of action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to consider the burden of such discrimination, which falls particularly on indigenous women, African women, Asian women, women of African descent, women of Asian descent, women migrants and women from other disadvantaged groups, ensuring their access to the resources of production on an equal footing with men, as a means of promoting their participation in the economic and productive development of their communities;

(ii) In response to the growing issues of domestic violence and violence against women and children in our communities, indigenous peoples are searching for our own solutions. Indigenous community organizations in many parts of the world have established programmes for men and boys to complement the work of women’s organizations. Such programmes, viewed as good practices, include indigenous men’s anti-violence projects; men’s groups and corporations to address domestic violence; youth programmes for boys, which promote cultural education and values; peer-counselling programmes, information campaigns and training programmes. These good practices need to be publicized and promoted. Above all, they need to be resourced;

(iii) Ending all forms of discrimination based on gender, race/ethnicity, class and culture, and enforcing existing human rights conventions and committing themselves to protecting indigenous women from human rights abuses and violations;

(iv) Putting in place and enforcing laws pertaining to the protection of the environment and biodiversity;

(v) Protecting ancestral lands and natural resources from multinational commercial exploitation;

(vi) Protecting intangible property and cultural knowledge of indigenous women and ensuring their right to cultural and religious expression;

(vii) Ensuring indigenous women’s access to culturally appropriate health care (and respect for their reproductive health rights), education, and training;

(viii) Making available financial support for women’s enterprises, and to create sustainable job opportunities;

c. At the community level:

(i) Increasing the participation of indigenous women in local power and decision-making structures;

(ii) Recognizing and enlisting the crucial support of indigenous men and boys in achieving gender equality;

(iii) Supporting indigenous grass-roots and outreach organizations;

(iv) Greater decentralization of administration and public-sector services in order to assure adequate access to these services;
(v) Recognition and protection of the instrumental social roles indigenous women play in their communities and their specialized traditional knowledge;

(vi) Recognizing that violence against women is perpetrated by men mainly towards women (that they know) and exploring how men can teach men to manage/control their anger/frustration; placing a greater focus on prevention targeted at the perpetrators of crime;

(vii) Designing communication strategies for the engagement of men and boys;

(viii) Addressing bullying in schools and workplaces, working on instilling respectful attitudes, especially to reduce harassment of girls/women and men perceived to be homosexual;

(ix) Ensuring that the common goals of the equality of women, e.g., equal pay for equal work, positions in decision-making and supporting caregivers, are not marginalized since women are not yet equal in these and many other areas of civic and political life.
Annex II

List of participants

Members

Marcos Matias Alonso (Mexico), Yuri Boitchenko (Russian Federation), Fortunato Turpo Choquehuancana (Peru), Otilia Lux de Coti (Guatemala), Njuma Ekundanayo (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Yuji Iwasawa (Japan), Ayitegan Kouevi (Togo), Willie Littlechild (Canada), Wayne Lord (Canada), Ole Henrik Magga (Norway), Ida Nicolaisen (Denmark), Xiaomei Qin (China), Zinaida Strogalschikova (Russian Federation), Parshuram Tamang (Nepal), Antonio Segundo Jacanamijoy Tisoy (Colombia), Mililani Trask (United States of America)

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belize, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia

Non-member States represented by observers

Holy See

United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations

Indigenous peoples organizations
(Organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council appear in bold type)


Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council


Others


Academic Institutions

Aboriginal Leadership Institute, Centro de Estudios e Informacion de la Mujer Multietnica (CEIMM) de la Universidad de las Regiones Autonomas de la Costa Caribe Nicaraguense URACCAN, Columbia University, Duke University Center for International Development, Escuela Bicultural “Yachay Huasi”, Faculty of Law — University of Tromso — Norway, Institute for Policy Studies (Transnational), Institute for Social Anthropology-University of Leipzig, Instituto de Derechos Humanos Pedro Arrupe, International Institute for the Study and Preservation of Aboriginal Peoples and their Cultures, John Jay College, Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, Long Island University, McMaster University, Mother Theresa Education & Welfare Society, Muhlenberg College, New School University, Principia College, Regional University of the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua, Redes Escolares Rurales Autonomas Bilingues “Santiago” de Ecuador, Rutgers University, Sierra Nevada College, University of Leipzig, Universidad de Deusto, Universidade Estadual Paulista, University of Alaska, University of California, University of Olso, University of Vermont, Vermont Law School
## Annex III

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