



Economic and Social Council

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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Twentieth session

New York, 19–30 April 2021

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Tove Søvndahl Gant

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:

[*To be completed*]

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

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

3. It is the understanding of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum that the proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action to be carried out by the United Nations will be implemented to the extent possible within the context of the approved programme of work of the relevant entities.

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum

[*To be completed*]



Chapter II

Venue, dates and proceedings of the session

4. By its decision 2020/218, the Economic and Social Council decided that the twentieth session of the Permanent Forum would be held at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 30 April 2021.

5. Taking into account the prevailing conditions relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the working arrangements for its twentieth session and the available technological and procedural solutions in the interim period, the Permanent Forum convened two formal meetings and nine virtual informal meetings during the session. The proceedings of the virtual informal meetings are reflected in the annex to the present report [*to be completed*].

6. At its 1st meeting, on 19 April, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 3, entitled “Discussion on the theme ‘Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16’”. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it two notes by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the international expert group meeting on the theme “Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16” (E/C.19/2020/7), and the study on “Indigenous peoples’ autonomies: experiences and perspectives” (E/C.19/2020/5).¹

7. At its [] meeting, on [] April, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under the following agenda items (see chap. I, sect. B): items 3 and 4, item 5 and sub-items (c), (d) and (f), and items 6 and 7.

8. At the same meeting, the Forum considered agenda item 8, entitled “Provisional agenda for the twenty-first session of the Permanent Forum”, and adopted a draft decision submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. A).

Chapter III

Adoption of the report of the Forum on its twentieth session

9. At the [] meeting, the Rapporteur introduced the draft decisions and recommendations and the draft report of the Permanent Forum on its twentieth session.

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

Chapter IV

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

11. The Permanent Forum held its twentieth session at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 30 April 2021. It held two formal meetings and nine informal virtual meetings, including three closed virtual informal meetings, to consider the items on its agenda.

¹ As a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Permanent Forum was unable to convene its nineteenth session, which was scheduled to be held in 2020, and the consideration of both reports was thus deferred to the twentieth session.

12. At the 1st meeting, on 19 April, the session was opened by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. At the opening ceremony, a representative of the Onondaga Nation, Tadodaho Sid Hill, delivered a welcoming address. The Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council (Mexico) delivered statements.

13. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Chair of the Permanent Forum, the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist (on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs), the Vice-President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America.

B. Attendance

14. Members of the Forum and representatives of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and bodies, United Nations entities and non-governmental and indigenous organizations attended the session. The list of participants will be published at a later date.

C. Election of officers

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

Chair:

Anne Nuorgam

Vice-Chairs:

Vital Bamanze

Geoffrey Roth

Irma Pineda Santiago

Aleksei Tsykarev

Rapporteur:

Tove Søvndahl Gant

D. Agenda

16. At its 1st meeting, the Forum adopted the provisional agenda contained in document [E/C.19/2021/1](#) and decided to postpone its consideration of sub-items 5 (a), 5 (b) and 5 (e), and to include these sub-items in the provisional agenda of its twenty-first session, in 2022.

17. At the same meeting, the Forum approved its organization of work, as contained in document [E/C.19/2021/L.1](#).

E. Documentation

18. The list of the documents before the Forum at its twentieth session is available at: www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/unpfii-sessions-2/unpfii-20th-session.html.