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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

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Draft report

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Discussion on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum (economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights), with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (item 4)

1. The Permanent Forum reviewed its six mandated areas (economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights) through the lens of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Speakers highlighted the gap between global pledges and realities, citing land loss, cultural erosion, health inequities and barriers to education and livelihoods. The Forum stresses that full implementation of the Declaration, integrated with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is vital to justice, equity and sustainability for Indigenous Peoples.

2. The Permanent Forum welcomes the study entitled “Impact of colonization and armed conflicts on Indigenous Peoples’ rights: the imperative of peacebuilding” ([E/C.19/2025/7](#)) and underscores its relevance to Indigenous Peoples worldwide due to continued oppression, displacement, loss of life and intergenerational trauma resulting from armed conflicts and colonialism.

3. The Permanent Forum endorses the report of the international expert group meeting on the theme “The rights of Indigenous Peoples, including those in voluntary isolation and initial contact in the context of critical minerals” ([E/C.19/2025/4](#)). The Forum urges the United Nations system, the private sector and multinational



corporations to collaborate on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report. Addressing the rights of Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact is vital and States must take urgent action to comply with these recommendations.

Recommendations for the United Nations system

4. States should operationalize the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by reviewing and reforming internal administrative boundaries that divide Indigenous Peoples' territories, ensuring respect for their territorial integrity. United Nations entities should integrate Indigenous Peoples' territorial realities into data systems, peacebuilding, development and humanitarian efforts to avoid reliance on State-centric boundaries that overlook Indigenous geographies.

5. The Permanent Forum urges United Nations entities, States and partners to fund and support effective youth participation in all relevant United Nations forums. Sufficient financing will better enable Indigenous youth to shape a sustainable future.

6. United Nations Ocean Conferences should ensure the effective engagement of Indigenous Peoples, as exemplified in decision 16/19 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2024, in which the Indigenous determinants of health framework was incorporated.

7. The Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems is critical for Indigenous-led food sovereignty. The Permanent Forum calls upon States and United Nations entities to provide funding for the Coalition.

8. The Permanent Forum commends the World Health Organization (WHO), including its regional offices, for advancing the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' traditional medicine and midwifery. However, some regional offices, particularly the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), utilize the concept of interculturality, which predates the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to conflate rights holders with stakeholders in the implementation of initiatives, undermining Indigenous Peoples' autonomy and self-determination and compliance with the principle of free, prior and informed consent. The Forum calls upon PAHO and any regional offices using this approach to halt this conflation and to address Indigenous issues separately from those of stakeholders. WHO, PAHO and Member States should also recognize Indigenous midwifery as an autonomous ancestral practice and a critical Indigenous determinant of health, decriminalize Indigenous-recognized traditional midwifery, finance Indigenous-led maternal care, integrate Indigenous-recognized midwifery into national health policies, and fully respect Indigenous Peoples' distinct rights.

9. The Permanent Forum calls upon the World Tourism Organization, the World Bank and the World Health Organization to develop a framework for monitoring and reporting on the impact of tourism on Indigenous Peoples by 2026, including data disaggregation.

Recommendations for Member States

10. The Permanent Forum urges States that have not yet done so to ratify Convention No. 169 of the International Labour Organization and to take concrete measures to fully implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

11. The Permanent Forum commends Ecuador for its openness in engaging with the Forum. The Forum encourages Ecuador to implement the rulings of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of 2012 regarding the Kichwa people of Sarayaku

and of 2025 regarding the Tagaeri and Taromenane peoples living in voluntary isolation. The Forum is concerned by the need to urgently clear territories affected by explosive ordnance. The Forum is also concerned by reports of criminalization of Indigenous leaders in Ecuador. The Forum invites Ecuador to report on the progress made in relation to the implementation of these rulings and other positive developments at its twenty-fifth session. The Forum also urges Ecuador to adopt the draft national law on free, prior and informed consent, currently under debate in the National Assembly, and developed with the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples.

12. Nicaragua must respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Moskitia region (La Mosquitia) and cease militarization and criminalization with respect to their lands and territories. In line with the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, Nicaragua should immediately release arbitrarily detained Indigenous leaders and defenders and take measures to clarify the fate and whereabouts of those subjected to enforced disappearance.

13. Iraq should secure self-identified Indigenous Peoples' rights to their lands, territories, cultures and self-governance, guaranteeing free, prior and informed consent and respecting their right to self-identification.

14. The Permanent Forum commends Peru for its contributions to the international recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights, including in the development and adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. However, the Forum is concerned about recent legislation in Peru, namely Law No. 32301 amending the law on the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation. The Forum has been informed by Indigenous Peoples that this new amendment risks criminalizing Indigenous human rights defenders for their advocacy and risks granting immunity for serious human rights violations. The Forum recommends that Peru review its legislation and ensure that implementation thereof aligns with its human rights obligations, including freedom of expression and association, which are particularly vital for Indigenous Peoples to enjoy their rights under the Declaration. The Forum encourages Peru to protect Indigenous human rights defenders and to engage in meaningful, transparent consultations with representatives of Indigenous Peoples and their institutions when enacting any legislation affecting their rights and adopting regulations to implement those laws. Peru should implement laws to avoid legislation being used to foster impunity for crimes against humanity committed against Indigenous human rights defenders.

15. The Permanent Forum noted the draft federal law on the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation and calls upon the Russian Federation to take Indigenous Peoples' language rights into consideration.