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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

Dialogue with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes (item 5 (c))

1. The Permanent Forum heard from United Nations entities about their activities to implement the system-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and progress on implementing the Forum's recommendations. United Nations entities also shared concerns about the impact of significant budget cuts and pushback on upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the invisibility of Indigenous Peoples in data.

2. The Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous People's Issues outlined an accountability framework involving United Nations resident coordinators to assess successes and challenges in implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Permanent Forum welcomes this initiative and urges the United Nations to ensure that this process is implemented, including in Member States that withhold recognition of Indigenous Peoples.

3. United Nations entities recommended that Indigenous Peoples strengthen advocacy and engagement at the national level, including with parliamentarians, financial mechanisms, plans and programmes. The Permanent Forum acknowledges the opportunity to engage on and promote Indigenous Peoples' rights in the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Committee on World Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in discussions on ultraprocessed food and the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.



4. United Nations entities are urged to strengthen and facilitate Indigenous women's and young people's engagement in decision-making across the United Nations, enhancing capacity-building, knowledge exchange, and advisory roles.
5. Many United Nations treaty negotiations – such as the World Health Organization (WHO) Pandemic Agreement – lacked Indigenous Peoples' meaningful participation. The Permanent Forum urges States to strengthen Indigenous Peoples' effective engagement when deciding on participation modalities in ongoing and future United Nations treaty negotiations.
6. The Permanent Forum expresses concern over the current implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, where reliance on State and non-State intermediaries and on efforts designed by States continues to marginalize Indigenous Peoples whose lands and territories are central to restoration efforts. The Forum calls upon the United Nations Environment Programme to fulfil the Decade's transformative promise by ensuring the recognition of Indigenous Peoples as rights-holders and ecological stewards, ensuring direct access to finance and embedding their leadership in the next five-year strategic plans in the mechanisms supporting Indigenous-led restoration.
7. United Nations entities should ensure the inclusion, equality and equity of Indigenous Peoples in humanitarian responses.
8. The Permanent Forum urges WHO to establish a standing Indigenous-led advisory committee to the Director General regarding Indigenous Peoples' health to steer, monitor and report annually on the implementation and ongoing operationalization of World Health Assembly resolution 76.16. The committee should be majority-Indigenous, gender-balanced, regionally diverse, and chosen through Indigenous representative institutions, in line with free, prior and informed consent.
