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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

Dialogues: thematic dialogues, including on the financing of Indigenous Peoples' work and participation in the context of, inter alia, development, climate, environment and biodiversity (item 5 (g))

1. Worldwide, Indigenous Peoples are at the forefront of the protection and management of the environment and biodiversity of, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation in, on and around, their own lands and territories. Their management of 80 per cent of the world's biodiversity underlines the importance of strengthening their participation in environmental governance and resource management at the local, national and international levels. The Permanent Forum commends the many positive and encouraging examples of impactful projects and programmes for Indigenous Peoples related to the environment, sustainable development, cultural heritage, climate change, and biodiversity management and conservation.

2. As rights holders to their own lands, territories and resources, Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, including their traditional knowledge, is essential for sustainable development, including pertinent international processes and Conferences of the Parties, inter alia, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Forum welcomes the study transmitted in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Financing the future: the financial needs of Indigenous Peoples to support their actions for biodiversity, climate and the protection of Mother Earth" ([E/C.19/2024/7](#)).



3. Indigenous Peoples expressed their discontent with the many obstacles to being truly able to protect and manage projects and actions within these fields, including from the encroachment of the extractive industries of States and private multilateral companies that threaten the health of ecosystems and the health and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples.
4. Concerns were also expressed about “green colonialism”, where Indigenous lands are used for green energy projects, such as for the placement of wind turbines, and for the extraction of minerals that are critical for the green transition, in complete disregard for Indigenous Peoples’ rights, including free, prior and informed consent.
5. Indigenous Peoples live in many ecosystems, from the high Arctic to the tropical. It is therefore regrettable that Indigenous Peoples living in environmental ecosystems and latitudes other than tropical and subtropical forests are ineligible for funding from donors, including the funds of the \$1.7 billion pledge made to Indigenous Peoples at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
6. Despite the many good and innovative donor practices, there is still scope for private philanthropists and bilateral and multilateral donors to ensure a rights-based approach to funding, in conformity with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
7. The Permanent Forum recognizes the need for more accountability and transparency of funding for Indigenous Peoples, as only a small fraction of international funding is directed to Indigenous Peoples and, when it is, such funding is directed through multilateral agencies, large environmental and conservation non-governmental organizations and other non-Indigenous intermediaries. The Forum was reminded that Indigenous Peoples have a right to the financing of their environmental work.
8. The Permanent Forum urges Member States and financial institutions to enhance direct financial support for Indigenous Peoples-led projects with funding mechanisms that are accessible, flexible and responsive to Indigenous Peoples’ self-determined priorities. Such support should empower Indigenous Peoples to manage their environmental resources and engage in sustainable economic activities without reliance on intermediaries.
9. The Permanent Forum recommends that Governments strengthen and implement legal and institutional frameworks that recognize and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their lands, territories and resources and ensure their participation in decision-making processes. Such frameworks should adhere to the Declaration and Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization, ensuring Indigenous Peoples’ free, prior and informed consent when development, environment, biodiversity and climate change programmes and projects are conducted on their lands.
10. The Permanent Forum emphasizes the need for improved data collection and transparency in distributing funds designated for Indigenous Peoples. Such improvements will facilitate better tracking of financial flows and ensure that investments are aligned with the priorities identified by Indigenous Peoples, thus enhancing the accountability and effectiveness of funded projects.
11. Furthermore, financing for Indigenous Peoples must be equitable, non-discriminatory, proportionate and considerate of Indigenous Peoples residing in all seven sociocultural regions, without political impediments that could obstruct fair resource allocation.

12. The Permanent Forum reiterates its calls to Member States and international organizations to include Indigenous Peoples actively in policymaking forums and development agendas. This inclusion should extend to climate change negotiations, biodiversity conservation and management forums, and other relevant platforms and processes focusing on issues affecting Indigenous Peoples and where their voices and knowledge guarantee significant contributions and outcomes for global sustainable development and the health of global ecosystems.

13. The Permanent Forum calls for increased investments in educational programmes and capacity-building initiatives that empower Indigenous Peoples to navigate legal and bureaucratic processes in managing their resources in keeping with their cultural and spiritual values and self-determined development. These initiatives should support the transmission of knowledge and skills across generations, enhancing resilience and sustainability.

14. The Permanent Forum encourages and commends the development and implementation of environmental monitoring systems led by Indigenous Peoples that utilize traditional knowledge and modern technology to oversee and manage natural resources effectively. Such approaches that are aligned with Indigenous Peoples' autonomy objectives provide valuable data for global environmental efforts.

15. The Permanent Forum encourages collaborative research initiatives for innovative solutions to environmental challenges that engage Indigenous Peoples as equal partners, respecting and integrating Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems with so-called "Western" scientific research and fostering mutual learning and respect between Indigenous Peoples and the mainstream scientific community.

16. The Permanent Forum supports the initiatives that empower Indigenous women, recognizing their roles as custodians of biodiversity and Indigenous knowledge. Programmes should address the specific needs and leadership roles of women within Indigenous Peoples' communities in order to ensure equitable participation in all funded projects.

17. The Permanent Forum welcomes the Paris Roadmap for Tracking of Funds, which sets out collaborative and coordinated action to address the systemic funding gaps for Indigenous Peoples. In this regard, the Forum reiterates the recommendation of its twenty-second session to Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to facilitate the tracking of funds in its statistical system by establishing relevant indicators, and invites the Development Assistance Committee to present on progress in this regard at the twenty-fourth session of the Forum in 2025.
