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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Twenty-third session

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Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Suleiman Mamutov

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: dialogue on Indigenous platforms established within United Nations entities (item 5 (f))

1. The Permanent Forum encourages United Nations entities that have platforms for Indigenous Peoples to continue to contribute to the deliberations of the Forum, including through the submission of conference room papers to further update the Forum. The Forum reiterates the importance of the sustained and consistent engagement of Indigenous Peoples at every stage of decision-making across the United Nations. The Forum encourages United Nations entities to respond to recommendations previously made at the Forum in their statements.

2. The Permanent Forum recognizes the importance of financing for Indigenous Peoples and appreciates the Global Environment Facility's target of allocating 20 per cent of its funds to support initiatives for Indigenous Peoples. The Forum urges the Facility to create direct financing mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples focused on climate change adaptation and mitigation. The Forum calls for the prioritization of Indigenous-led initiatives to ensure the equitable participation and involvement of Indigenous Peoples in decision-making, including in the Conferences of the Parties to, and processes under, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.



3. The Permanent Forum appreciates the joint work of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Reintegration and Local Settlement Section in following up on the recommendations regarding the conflation of the terms “local communities” and Indigenous Peoples. In joint declarations issued in July 2023 and February 2024 Member States, United Nations entities, foundations, funders and non-governmental organizations were called upon to cease the conflation of the terms. The Forum thanks the United Nations entities that have responded to that call and encourages their continued efforts in that regard.

4. The Permanent Forum reiterates the recommendation it made at its twenty-second session, whereby it urged all United Nations entities and States parties to treaties concerning the environment, biodiversity and climate change to eliminate the use of the term “local communities” in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples, and to distinguish between the terms, in ongoing processes, policies and new international agreements at all levels.

5. The Permanent Forum reiterates the recommendation it made at its twenty-second session to adopt a programme of work on article 8 (j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and strengthened institutional arrangements through a permanent subsidiary body to take forward the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to ensure a human rights-based approach, and full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

6. The Permanent Forum requests the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to convene an ad hoc expert group meeting to address the conflation of Indigenous Peoples with other groups within the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to develop specific actions to avoid such conflation. Participants in the meeting should include Indigenous Peoples and representatives of the three United Nations mechanisms related to Indigenous Peoples. The Forum also requests the secretariat of the Convention to report on the implementation of the Framework in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

7. The Permanent Forum welcomes the establishment of an ad hoc working group on terminology related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities by the International Indigenous Peoples’ Forum on Climate Change during the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

8. The Permanent Forum urges Member States to uphold the principles established during the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in the upcoming review of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform at the twenty-ninth session, ensuring equal status and financial support for Indigenous Peoples within the Platform at all levels. In addition, the Forum calls upon the International Indigenous Peoples’ Forum on Climate Change to establish a separate platform for Indigenous Peoples that reflects their self-determination.

9. The Permanent Forum welcomes the commitment of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples to enhance Indigenous Peoples’ participation within United Nations entities and urges it to continue its fellowship programme. The trust fund of the Forum and the Voluntary Fund are distinct funding mechanisms; the Forum encourages Member States and other donors to support the trust fund, which will enable the Forum to implement its recommendations through the Economic and Social Council and fund essential activities under its mandate.

10. The Permanent Forum urges Member States and relevant United Nations entities to strengthen and facilitate the engagement of Indigenous young people in decision-making across all United Nations processes, including the Summit of the Future. Initiatives should include mentorship, capacity-building, knowledge exchange and the creation of advisory roles specific to Indigenous young people that facilitate active participation and leadership.

11. The Forum calls on multilateral development banks, including the World Bank Group, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the African Development Bank, to align policies with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Those banks must ensure direct access to finance for Indigenous-led projects across all territories. Disputes involving banks and Member States should not compromise the rights of Indigenous Peoples but actively support them in achieving the ends of the Declaration.

12. The Permanent Forum recognizes the efforts of the Green Climate Fund and its Indigenous Peoples' advisory group, and recommends that the Fund develop a road map for dedicated, predictable funding for Indigenous Peoples, including through capacity-building at the national level to ensure that the Fund's Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme¹ supports Indigenous Peoples. The Forum requests a progress report at its next session in 2025.

¹ <https://www.greenclimate.fund/readiness>.