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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)

Health of Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous women and girls

1. The Permanent Forum recognizes that Indigenous Peoples experience disproportionately high rates of suicide, poverty and incarceration, requiring the use of culturally safe, appropriate and adequate health-care services and policies to address Indigenous health appropriately.
2. The Permanent Forum welcomes the study transmitted in the note by the Secretariat entitled “Improving the health and wellness of Indigenous Peoples globally: operationalization of Indigenous determinants of health” (E/C.19/2024/5). The Forum recognizes that the Indigenous determinants of health framework contains 33 risk and protective factors that empower United Nations entities and Member States to improve the health and wellness of Indigenous Peoples. Those entities and Member States must adopt the framework to operationalize the Indigenous determinants of health globally.
3. The Permanent Forum reiterates the recommendation it made at its twenty-second session that Member States ratify and uphold the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on a communications procedure. The Forum



expresses deep concern over the high incidences of suicide, trauma from harsh incarceration conditions, and adverse experiences in out-of-home care affecting Indigenous children and adolescents in Australia and globally.

4. The Permanent Forum recognizes the urgent need to increase commitment to the health of Indigenous women globally, as their health needs are often underserved and they lack culturally appropriate care, including as a result of the criminalization of traditional childbirth practices. The Forum urges Member States and United Nations entities, in particular the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), to collaborate in developing programmes and allocating funds that prioritize the health of, and midwifery services for, Indigenous women. The Forum calls for the revision of discriminatory laws affecting Indigenous women. The Forum invites UN-Women, WHO and UNFPA to partner in identifying and documenting good practices of culturally appropriate health interventions from their work in developing countries, including supporting Indigenous women and girls in exercising their health and reproductive rights. The Forum requests that the entities compile a comprehensive progress report, to be submitted at the 2025 session of the Forum.

5. The Permanent Forum heard alarming reports from Māori Indigenous Peoples that the Government of New Zealand had departed from the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) and taken measures against the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the disbandment of Te Aka Whai Ora, the Māori health authority. The Forum urges the State and Government of New Zealand to uphold the distinct rights of Māori Indigenous Peoples.

6. The Permanent Forum remains concerned that Indigenous women and girls experience widespread discrimination and violence. The Forum congratulates the Government of Australia for its commitment to end violence against Indigenous women by undertaking to establish a national action plan consistent with the advice of United Nations treaty bodies and experts. The Forum reiterates its call for Member States that have not yet done so to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and general recommendation No. 39 (2022) on the rights of Indigenous women and girls of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; to ensure the rights of Indigenous women to full, effective and meaningful participation in decision-making at national and United Nations system agencies; and to ensure the availability of sustainable financing and resources to support initiatives for Indigenous women and youth.

Indigenous Peoples' rights: economic and social development, culture, environment, education and human rights

7. The Permanent Forum welcomes the report transmitted in the note by the Secretariat entitled "International expert group meeting on the theme 'Indigenous Peoples in a greening economy'" (E/C.19/2024/4) and urges Member States to integrate the proposed innovative practices and sustainable economic models into national policies while supporting Indigenous entrepreneurship with a view to upholding traditional knowledge and sustainable development.

8. The Permanent Forum welcomes the study transmitted in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Criminalization of Indigenous Peoples' human rights" (E/C.19/2024/6) and is alarmed by the disproportionate criminalization of Indigenous Peoples for defending their rights. The Forum urges Member States to end the criminalization of Indigenous Peoples.

9. The effects of climate change, poverty, discrimination and violence have a disproportionately negative impact on Indigenous Peoples. The Permanent Forum is

deeply concerned about circumstances in which Indigenous Peoples are deprived of essential services and experience violence, including gender-based violence. The Forum urges Member States and United Nations entities to protect displaced Indigenous Peoples under international human rights law.

10. The Permanent Forum calls on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to conduct global and regional studies, by 2026, on the unique needs and challenges experienced by Indigenous Peoples as a result of displacement. The Forum requests a progress update at its 2025 session. Furthermore, the Forum urges UNHCR to join the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues.

11. The Permanent Forum welcomes the decision by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization to establish a mechanism for the participation of the Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon with a view to strengthening dialogue between Governments and Amazonian Indigenous Peoples on issues that concern them. The Permanent Forum recommends that States members of the Treaty Organization guarantee the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in all negotiation processes.

12. The Permanent Forum recognizes that violations of Indigenous treaty rights, including from mining in the name of climate change mitigation, all too often occur in the treaty lands of Indigenous Peoples in Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America without the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples, affecting the right of Indigenous Peoples to health, culture, sustainable development and environment.

13. The Permanent Forum supports the call of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples to create just and bilateral processes to redress treaty violations as required by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (arts. 27, 28 and 40). Indigenous Peoples deprived of treaty rights are also at risk; the Forum urges relevant States to adopt constructive agreements and appropriate laws to ensure Indigenous lands and heritage are protected in the face of mining and development, which have posed significant risks to Indigenous culture.

14. The Permanent Forum recognizes the need for the United States to honour its treaty obligations with tribes through the Department of Justice and state governments. The Forum calls for the return of lands that house boarding schools to tribal governments, in line with federal law and given the associated profound trauma and harm.

15. The Permanent Forum reiterates the recommendation it made at its twenty-second session, in view of the disregard by transnational and national extractive corporations for Indigenous Peoples' rights, that Member States, as duty bearers, ensure that private sector entities respect Indigenous Peoples' rights. The Forum calls upon all entities involved in green economy projects to implement an immediate moratorium until the rights of affected Indigenous Peoples are respected, recognized and assured.

16. The Permanent Forum reiterates that the Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline jeopardizes the Great Lakes and poses a real and credible threat to the human rights of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and the United States. The Forum reiterates the call it made at its twenty-second session for Canada and the United States to decommission Line 5.

17. The Permanent Forum is concerned over the decision of the Supreme Administrative Court of Finland to include 65 individuals not recognized by the Sami community in the Sami Parliament's electoral roll. The Forum urges the Parliament of Finland to amend the Sami Parliament Act in line with Sami Parliament proposals

to protect the Sami People's right to self-determination and ensure that their electoral processes reflect their standards of community membership.

18. The Permanent Forum urges the Governments of Chile and France to adhere to their international obligations under the Declaration, and to engage in meaningful dialogue with the Rapa Nui People (Chile) and the Kanak People of New Caledonia (France) and resolve ongoing conflicts.

19. The Permanent Forum notes the proactive measures of the Governments of Honduras and Indonesia to integrate Indigenous Peoples' rights within national land rights and environmental conservation frameworks. Furthermore, the Forum reiterates its concerns regarding the ongoing situation in West Papua, in particular the violence and discrimination against Indigenous Peoples, and implores the Government of Indonesia to allow independent monitoring by the United Nations.

20. The United Nations Summit of the Future should ensure mechanisms for the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples. The Permanent Forum urges Member States to include Indigenous Peoples' world views in their discussions.

21. The Permanent Forum reiterates that truth and reconciliation commissions are important mechanisms for raising awareness of past traumas and histories of Indigenous Peoples, increasing the understanding of colonial harm, and creating means to repatriate cultural heritage and human remains.

22. Education systems must be culturally safe, be based on Indigenous Peoples' world views and support Indigenous Peoples' languages. The Permanent Forum reiterates the urgent need for Member States to protect Indigenous Peoples' languages, both spoken and written, during the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, through the integration of these languages into daily activities by adopting appropriate laws and policies drafted in close collaboration with Indigenous Peoples.
