



United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Report on the Tenth Session

(16 May-27 May 2011)

**Recommendations Specifically Pertaining to
Indigenous Women and the Girl Child, adopted
by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

Recommendations adopted under the “Tenth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues”

Draft decisions recommended by the Permanent Forum for adoption by the Council

Draft decision I

International expert group meeting on the theme “*Combating violence against indigenous women and girls: article 22 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*”

The Economic and Social Council decides to authorize a three-day international expert group meeting on the theme “Combating violence against indigenous women and girls: article 22 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” and requests that the results of the meeting be reported to the Permanent Forum at its eleventh session, to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session and to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty sixth session in 2012.

Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on economic and social development, the environment and free, prior and informed consent

Economic and social development

4. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has received information on the implementation of 62 of the 131 recommendations made throughout its past nine sessions in the field of economic and social development, which is one of the six areas that the Forum is mandated to address. These recommendations cover a range of issues, including large-scale development projects, resource extraction, communication, traditional livelihoods, data disaggregation and the development of indicators. The Permanent Forum has consistently upheld the right of indigenous peoples to self-determination, as well as their right to determine and develop their own priorities and strategies for development, as enshrined in articles 3 and 32, respectively, of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous women play an integral role in all aspects of economic and social development, and, in order for indigenous peoples to advance the effective implementation of the Declaration, violence against indigenous women must be eradicated.

33. The Permanent Forum notes the intention of the International Indigenous Women’s Environmental Justice and Reproductive Health Initiative to organize an expert group meeting on the environment and indigenous women’s reproductive health and requests that the organizers invite members of the Permanent Forum to participate in the meeting. Further, the Permanent Forum recommends that the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organization participate in the expert group meeting.

Half-day discussion on South and Central America and the Caribbean

53. The Permanent Forum recommends that Member States take measures to advance indigenous women's right to intercultural health through its inclusion in legal frameworks and public policies, as well as programmes to guarantee culturally, geographically and financially appropriate health and social services.

Comprehensive dialogue with the United Nations Children's Fund

65. In support of their country-level programming, and with a view to a deeper appreciation of indigenous peoples' perceptions of such interventions, UNICEF and UNFPA should undertake a study on the social, cultural, legal and spiritual institutions of indigenous peoples and how these affect the rights of women and children as laid out in local, regional and global frameworks.

73. The Permanent Forum requests that UNICEF design, in partnership with other relevant United Nations agencies, a protocol for emergency situations resulting from natural disasters to ensure that, in cases of emergency, there are no violations of the human rights of indigenous peoples, especially indigenous youth, children and women, owing to forced relocation.

75. The Permanent Forum requests that UNICEF and UNESCO support intercultural and bilingual education programmes in conjunction with the indigenous peoples concerned, paying special attention to the right of girls to primary and secondary education.

Future work of the Permanent Forum

102. The Permanent Forum recommends the following:
(d) That the Government of Bangladesh establish a high-level, independent and impartial commission of enquiry into human rights violations perpetrated against indigenous peoples, including sexual violence against women and girls, and prosecute and punish the perpetrators, as well as provide reparations for the victims concerned.

Indigenous women

107. The Permanent Forum recommends that the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) include a focus on the situation and rights of indigenous women and girls in the compilation and implementation of its first strategic plan, for the period 2011-2013, particularly with regard to its efforts to increase women's political leadership and participation, promote women's economic empowerment and combat violence against women and girls, and that it draw on the expertise and advice of indigenous experts in the process.

108. The Permanent Forum recognizes the leadership of UN-Women in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, including its facilitation of the

engagement of women's representatives and organizations in the relevant international meetings, and recommends that UN-Women develop a policy on engagement with indigenous women and girls within the framework of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Development Group Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, and ensure the participation of indigenous women in all consultative processes.

110. The Permanent Forum recommends that in its awarding of grants, the Fund for Gender Equality and the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, administered by UN-Women, take into account the need to enhance the human rights and situation of indigenous women and girls.

111. The Permanent Forum recommends that the efforts by Member States, the United Nations system and regional organizations to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, in particular to promote the participation of women in conflict prevention, conflict management and postconflict peacebuilding, take into account the effects of armed conflict on indigenous women, and recommends that in her work, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict pay particular attention to the situation of indigenous women in armed conflict.

112. The Permanent Forum recommends that indigenous women and their views be duly represented in the discussions and outcomes of upcoming United Nations meetings and conferences, including the high-level meeting on addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, to be held in September 2011; the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, themed "The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges", to be held in February and March 2012; and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), to be held in June 2012.

113. The Permanent Forum has decided to appoint members of the Forum, Eva Biaudet, Megan Davis, Helen Kaljuläe and Valmaine Toki, to undertake a study on the extent of violence against indigenous women and girls in terms of article 22 (2) of the Declaration, to be submitted to the Forum at its eleventh session, in 2012.

115. The Permanent Forum reiterates the recommendation contained in paragraph 12 of the report on its third session (E/2004/43-E/C.19/2004/23) and requests that the International Organization for Migration, OHCHR, UN-Women, UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and ILO report periodically to the Permanent Forum on their progress in addressing the problems faced by indigenous migrant women and girls, including the alarming trend of trafficking within and across national and international borders.

116. The Permanent Forum urges Member States to ratify United Nations and

regional instruments combating trafficking in human beings, in particular the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention, and to establish transparent self-monitoring mechanisms to gather information on human trafficking and related phenomena, including the situation of indigenous women and children.

Discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

126. The Permanent Forum also welcomes the recommendations made by a wide range of indigenous peoples' caucuses and representatives with respect to the establishment of a global steering committee to conduct the preparatory process with representation of the seven sociocultural regions, indigenous women and youth, as well as the participation of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Forum itself.

Discussion on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

135. The Permanent Forum welcomes the initiative of indigenous organizations to hold a preparatory meeting on Rio+20 in Manaus, Brazil, from 11 to 13 August 2011, and calls on United Nations agencies, especially the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Environment Programme, non-governmental organizations and donors, to support the participation of indigenous peoples, including indigenous women and young leaders, in that process.