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United Nations

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Report on the twenty-fifth session (20 April–1 May 2026)

Economic and Social Council

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Chapter I
Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council

1. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
International expert group meeting on the theme "Enhanced participation of Indigenous Peoples"

The Economic and Social Council decides to authorize a three-day international expert group meeting on the theme "Enhanced participation of Indigenous Peoples".

Draft decision II
Venue and dates of the twenty-sixth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Economic and Social Council decides that the twenty-sixth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues shall be held at United Nations Headquarters from 10 to 21 May 2027.

Draft decision III
Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its twenty-fifth session and provisional agenda of its twenty-sixth session

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its twenty-fifth session;[1]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda of the twenty-sixth session of the Permanent Forum as set out in document E/C.19/2026/L.3, draft decision III.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum

2. The Permanent Forum has identified the proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action set out below and, through the Council, recommends that States, entities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, Indigenous Peoples, the private sector and non-governmental organizations assist in their realization.

3. It is the understanding of the Permanent Forum that the proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action to be carried out by the United Nations, as set out below, will be implemented to the extent possible within the context of the approved programme of work of the relevant entities.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2026, Supplement No. 23* (E/2026/43).

Interregional, intergenerational and global dialogue (item 5 (e))

4. The Permanent Forum expresses its profound appreciation to the Governor General of Canada, Mary Simon, for her presence and her address at the opening session.

5. The Permanent Forum, during its twenty-fifth session, held an interregional, intergenerational and global dialogue on the theme “Indigenous Peoples and climate change: articles 3, 4, 25 and 26 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”.

6. The Permanent Forum notes that Indigenous Peoples continue to bear disproportionately the often irreversible impacts of climate change on their lands, territories, water, livelihoods, cultures and health, despite contributing the least to global greenhouse gas emissions, and that climate change constitutes not a future risk but a current and ongoing human rights crisis for Indigenous Peoples.

7. The Permanent Forum welcomes the advisory opinions on climate change issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the International Court of Justice in July 2025, which build on the advisory opinion of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea of 2024, and recognizes them as authoritative interpretations of binding international law affirming Indigenous Peoples’ essential role as rights holders and knowledge holders in climate governance. The Forum notes that the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights will be developing a corresponding opinion.

8. The Permanent Forum notes with concern that the energy transition and the growing demand for critical minerals are generating a new wave of extractive pressure, with more than half of energy transition mineral projects located on or near the lands and territories of Indigenous Peoples, and a significant proportion situated in conflict-affected areas or within fragile contexts.

9. The Permanent Forum notes with deep concern the situation of Indigenous Peoples in isolation, voluntary isolation and initial contact in the Amazon, the Gran Chaco and other regions and countries, while acknowledging the advances made in Ecuador in constitutional frameworks for the rights of nature.

10. The Permanent Forum is deeply concerned about environmental degradation caused by extractive and emerging market-based mechanisms, including carbon finance and carbon markets, where activities are often undertaken without free, prior and informed consent, contrary to article 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Such developments risk undermining Indigenous Peoples’ rights to lands, territories and resources, and are closely linked to deteriorating physical and mental health conditions and the erosion of traditional livelihoods.

11. The Permanent Forum notes that the health, cultural and territorial impacts of climate change and extractive industries on Indigenous Peoples are severe and documented across all regions. Indigenous Peoples in Central and South America and the Caribbean reported river contamination harming Indigenous women and children, deterioration of Indigenous medicine systems and mineral extraction without consent; in Africa, Indigenous Peoples reported displacement and threats to food security; in the Arctic, Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia, Asia, and the Pacific, they reported mineral extraction without consent and accelerated climate impacts causing displacement, loss of livelihoods and erosion of Indigenous knowledge; and in North America, they reported non-implementation of obligations in international treaties with Indigenous Peoples and large-scale lithium extraction without their free, prior and informed consent. Across all regions, national

climate legislation, policies and plans frequently exclude Indigenous Peoples and their rights, in violation of the Declaration.

12. The Permanent Forum takes note of practices shared by Member States, including the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy (2024–2030) in Australia, the Indigenous Guardians programme in Canada and structured dialogue with Indigenous Peoples and the Tropical Forest Forever Facility led by Brazil.

Recommendations for Member States

13. The Permanent Forum calls upon Member States, by no later than 2027, to give full consideration to the advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on climate change when reviewing national climate frameworks, aligning them with the Declaration, and ensuring the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, including women and youth, in climate decision-making, implementation and monitoring, and to report on progress to the Forum at its twenty-sixth session.

14. The Permanent Forum welcomes the United Arab Emirates just transition work programme which recognizes that all just transition pathways should respect and promote the internationally recognized collective and individual rights of Indigenous Peoples, including rights to self-determination and free, prior and informed consent. The Forum calls upon States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, by the end of 2027, to reflect it in binding national frameworks operationalizing free, prior and informed consent in all just transition pathways, including transition minerals, renewable energy and biofuels, and to report on progress to the Forum at its twenty-sixth session.

15. The Permanent Forum commends Ecuador for its openness in engaging with the Forum and takes note of its willingness to continue complying with the rulings of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The Forum reiterates its recommendation to Ecuador to implement the rulings of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of 2012 regarding the Kichwa people of Sarayaku, and of 2025 regarding the Tagaeri and Taromenane peoples. The Forum invites Ecuador to report on the progress made in relation to the implementation of these rulings and other positive developments at its twenty-sixth session.

16. The Permanent Forum calls upon Member States, by 2027, to legally designate territories of Indigenous Peoples in isolation, voluntary isolation and initial contact as exclusion zones; suspend fast-tracked critical minerals projects in their territories pending Indigenous-led impact assessments; implement existing court decisions and treaty obligations; halt all projects lacking free, prior and informed consent; legally recognize and protect their rights to lands, territories and resources; and establish effective protection mechanisms to guarantee the safety of Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous leaders and Indigenous human rights defenders, with annual reporting to the Permanent Forum.

Recommendations for United Nations entities

17. The Permanent Forum welcomes the Political Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon Basin and All Biomes of Brazil for the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and recommends that Member States in the Amazon Basin and United Nations entities, by 2026, explicitly integrate its principles into national and United Nations climate action plans. The Forum calls upon United Nations entities to require free, prior and informed consent as a mandatory condition for all just transition programmes; to establish, by 2027, monitoring frameworks assessing impacts on

Indigenous Peoples' health and cultural continuity, with particular attention to women and children; to operationalize, by 2027, direct access funding mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples globally without intermediary requirements; and to formally recognize and apply Indigenous knowledge systems as co-equal frameworks in climate policy and programming, in accordance with article 31 of the Declaration.

18. The Permanent Forum urges Amazonian States to fulfil their commitment in International Union for Conservation of Nature resolution 7.129 to protect and restore 80% of the Amazon's ecological integrity by 2030. These efforts must prioritize the formal recognition and legal tenure of 100 million hectares of Indigenous Peoples' territories as a cornerstone of climate action.

19. The Permanent Forum calls upon Member States and United Nations entities with the participation of Indigenous Peoples, by 2027, to establish standardized systems for collecting disaggregated climate impact data in order to systematically analyse impacts on Indigenous women, girls and children, and to integrate these data into national and United Nations climate policies, monitoring frameworks and accountability and reporting mechanisms, with regular public reporting on outcomes.

20. The Permanent Forum also recommends that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations develop a technical paper on Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems, including nomadism and mobility, and their positive contributions to health, biodiversity conservation and climate resilience. This work should be undertaken in the context of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026 and should reflect Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems and self-determined priorities.

21. The Permanent Forum invites Member States to contribute to ensuring that Indigenous Peoples' voices and priorities are adequately represented in the impact report on young people's contributions to climate action prepared by the Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, and invites the current and next Secretary-General and their Executive Office to give full consideration to its findings.

Discussion on the theme "Ensuring Indigenous Peoples' health, including in the context of conflict" (item 3)

22. The Permanent Forum held a dialogue on the special theme of the session, featuring addresses by representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes.

23. The Permanent Forum underscores the inseparable relationship between Indigenous Peoples' health and land as the holistic foundation of well-being, which must be central to policies and practices of United Nations entities and Member States. Indigenous Peoples' health is cultural, collective and rooted in Indigenous Peoples' lands, territories, languages, spiritual practices and governance systems.

24. Current health disparities among Indigenous Peoples are the result of colonization, land dispossession, extractive activities on their lands and territories, environmental contamination, the criminalization of their cultures and healing practices, the dismantling of governance systems, exclusion from health data, health frameworks developed without consent, the forced removal of children and violations of international treaties with Indigenous Peoples, making decolonization essential to restoring health and guaranteeing their self-determination.

25. The Permanent Forum affirms the Indigenous determinants of health as the foundational framework for Indigenous health policies and accountability, grounded

in a holistic understanding of health and contingent upon full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including free, prior and informed consent as a non-negotiable standard rooted in self-determination.

26. The Permanent Forum expresses grave concern at the disproportionate impact of armed conflicts on Indigenous Peoples' health, including documented cases of threats to the health and lives of Indigenous Peoples by military occupation, military activities and the conscription of Indigenous Peoples into armed forces.

Recommendations for Member States

27. The Permanent Forum urges Member States to support and resource the drafting of the WHO Global Plan of Action on the Health of Indigenous Peoples (2027–2040), which must be grounded in self-determination and free, prior and informed consent, ensuring that national implementation measures uphold Indigenous Peoples' rights, pursuant to the Declaration.

28. Recalling the report of its twenty-fourth session, the Permanent Forum urges Member States and WHO to adopt and implement a rights-based approach to health, grounded in the Indigenous determinants of health, as the foundation of national health policies, the Global Plan of Action and all related programming, technical guidance and resource allocation, and, by 2028, to develop and adequately resource Indigenous-led national action plans on Indigenous health and to invest in Indigenous-led health systems and in the governance and delivery of health services, in full partnership with Indigenous Peoples.

29. The Permanent Forum calls on Member States, by 2027, to implement ethnicity-disaggregated data collection based on Indigenous self-identification, eliminate residual classifications such as "other" in national health, vital statistics and sexual and reproductive health data systems, and report on progress through national statistical offices in partnership with Indigenous Peoples. It also calls on UNFPA and WHO to develop jointly with Indigenous Peoples, by 2027, technical guidance on ethnicity-disaggregated sexual and reproductive health indicators for national and regional adaptation.

30. The Permanent Forum urges Member States, by 2027, to formally recognize Indigenous Peoples' languages as a determinant of health and, by 2028, to allocate dedicated resources for the translation of national health policies and health-related consent documentation into Indigenous Peoples' languages, and to support the development in Indigenous Peoples' languages of medical training and health education pathways, in partnership with Indigenous Peoples.

31. The Permanent Forum urges Member States, by 2028, to design and implement targeted social protection and occupational health measures for Indigenous Peoples engaged in traditional livelihoods under extreme climatic conditions, including early or flexible retirement options, regular health screening and preventive care, co-developed with Indigenous Peoples and implemented with their free, prior and informed consent.

32. The Permanent Forum calls upon Canada to substantially expand alternatives to detention, including community-based sentencing, restorative justice programmes and adequately funded, independently operated Indigenous healing lodges, ensuring that such alternatives are resourced at parity with conventional custodial institutions.

33. The Permanent Forum calls upon Member States to uphold their obligations under international treaties with Indigenous Peoples. The Forum further calls upon New Zealand to recommit to Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) and to align all policies with the Declaration, restoring Māori leadership in health and social policy.

The Forum urges New Zealand to recognize that structural and policy-driven conflict impacts Indigenous health and to monitor and regularly report on developments, ensuring accountability for the impacts of current policies on Māori health and self-determination.

34. The Permanent Forum urges Member States and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to recognize Indigenous Peoples' food systems as essential health infrastructure, to integrate land rights and food sovereignty into all programming affecting them, and to collaborate with Indigenous Peoples and the three United Nations mechanisms on Indigenous Peoples on carbon finance and carbon markets through a dedicated technical expert workshop.

35. The Permanent Forum urges the General Assembly to proclaim 2027 as the International Year of Indigenous Peoples' Health and to establish a clear pathway towards an international decade of Indigenous Peoples' health.

Recommendations for United Nations entities

36. The Permanent Forum calls on WHO to establish, no later than 2027 and through appropriate WHO governing body processes, an Indigenous-led advisory body with genuine governance, monitoring and evaluative authority over the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, in line with World Health Assembly resolution 76.16 and previous WHO recommendations.

37. The Permanent Forum urges WHO to support the development of Indigenous Peoples' language technologies, including translation and digital health tools, as a transitional measure to facilitate access to medical services where provision in Indigenous Peoples' languages is not yet possible, in full respect of Indigenous data governance frameworks.

38. The Permanent Forum urges WHO and PAHO to immediately cease the conflation of Indigenous Peoples with other groups in health programming, data collection and policy design, and to develop dedicated, Indigenous-specific technical standards, monitoring frameworks and funding, recognizing Indigenous Peoples as distinct rights holders.

39. The Permanent Forum calls upon PAHO, in coordination with United Nations entities, to immediately formalize its progress indicators for 2019–2025 into a binding regional accountability and financing framework that links demonstrated gaps in maternal mortality, under-5 mortality, tuberculosis and social participation to targeted resource allocation, performance benchmarks and periodic public reporting.

40. The Permanent Forum urges the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples to develop by 2027 minimum standards for humanitarian response in contexts of Indigenous Peoples' displacement, ensuring free, prior and informed consent, culturally safe transitional care, Indigenous-led return planning, sexual and reproductive health services, and protection from gender-based violence.

41. The Permanent Forum calls upon PAHO and relevant United Nations entities to ensure that the regional goal of eliminating 30 diseases by 2030 is operationalized through integrated, Indigenous-led, culturally appropriate health systems.

42. The Permanent Forum calls upon relevant United Nations specialized agencies, including WHO, to eliminate policy silos across global processes and ensure coordinated, coherent approaches to Indigenous health, including through an inter-agency working group on Indigenous Peoples' health, and to increase sustained, direct investment in Indigenous-led health systems, no later than 2028.

Indigenous women and girls

43. The Permanent Forum notes with concern the disproportionate adverse health impacts on Indigenous women and girls, including as a result of conflict, environmental degradation and discriminatory health policy. The Forum further notes the devastating impact of all forms of gender-based violence, including conflict-related violence and forced sterilization, as well as gender-specific harms arising from toxic contamination, such as mercury exposure, on Indigenous women, and the intergenerational impact on Indigenous Peoples.

44. The Permanent Forum highlights the disproportionate impact of human rights violations on Indigenous women and girls, who face intersecting forms of discrimination. These include violence, forced sterilization, limited access to sexual and reproductive health services and exclusion from decision-making processes. The Forum urges Member States to implement general recommendation No. 39 (2022) of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the rights of Indigenous women and girls.

45. The Permanent Forum urges Member States to recognize maternal and gynaecologic abuses, such as obstetric violence, forced sterilization and non-consensual contraception, targeting Indigenous women, girls, persons with disabilities and gender-diverse persons as violations of national and international law, and to include information disaggregated by Indigenous status in their periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on measures taken to prevent and remedy such violations. It further urges the Committee to ensure that, by 2026, its general recommendation No. 39 includes State compliance on reproductive coercion as a stand-alone, Indigenous-disaggregated monitoring indicator, to be addressed within its existing reporting framework, with annual reporting required.

46. The Permanent Forum calls upon Member States to treat prolonged climate-induced displacement of Indigenous Peoples as a health emergency. Member States should refrain from using climate crises as justification for permanent displacement, and should ensure that any transitional arrangements include culturally safe care, sexual and reproductive health services, maternal care, and protection from gender-based violence.

Human rights dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; annual review of progress on the implementation of general recommendation No. 39 (2022) (item 5 (d))

47. The dialogue between the Permanent Forum, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples reaffirmed the complementarity of their distinct mandates. The Forum underscores the importance of maintaining these mechanisms as separate yet mutually reinforcing pillars within the United Nations system. Each plays a unique role: the Special Rapporteur in monitoring, reporting and addressing alleged violations; the Expert Mechanism in providing thematic expertise and advice; and the Forum as a high-level advisory body with a broad mandate covering economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights issues. During the dialogue, concerns were raised regarding ongoing internal discussions that may affect the structure or functioning of these mandates.

48. The Permanent Forum expresses concern over persistent gaps between normative commitments and implementation. While the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and instruments such as the International Labour

Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), have advanced recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights, major challenges remain. These include the lack of legal recognition of Indigenous Peoples, insufficient implementation of free, prior and informed consent, continued dispossession of lands, territories and resources, and environmental degradation affecting traditional lands.

49. The Permanent Forum expresses its grave concern about the erosion and backsliding of existing protections of Indigenous Peoples' rights, which have resulted in increased reprisals, acts of intimidation and threats against, and rates of incarceration of Indigenous Peoples for peacefully defending their lands, territories and resources, including Indigenous leaders and Indigenous human rights defenders.

50. The Forum emphasizes that Indigenous women and girls suffer disproportionately from the physical and mental health impacts of extractive activities and environmental contamination and are systematically excluded from climate-related decision-making.

51. The Permanent Forum condemns the continued killings, intimidation, reprisals and criminalization of Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous leaders and Indigenous human rights defenders, in violation of articles 7 and 8 of the Declaration. The Forum reiterates that the protection of Indigenous leaders and Indigenous human rights defenders is essential for Indigenous Peoples to exercise their rights under the Declaration.

52. The Permanent Forum reiterates with concern that the Russian Federation's ongoing war against Ukraine continues to severely impact Indigenous Peoples in the region.

53. The Permanent Forum expresses concern over reports of intimidation and detention of Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous leaders and Indigenous human rights defenders, in the Russian Federation and elsewhere, especially those involved in the work of the United Nations system.

54. The Permanent Forum calls for strengthened coordination among States, United Nations entities and Indigenous Peoples to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration, in line with its articles 38 and 41. The Forum emphasizes that meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples in decision-making processes, including sustained engagement with United Nations mechanisms, is essential to translating commitments into concrete outcomes. It further underscores the need for adequate and sustained resources to support the distinct mandates of the Special Rapporteur, the Expert Mechanism and the Forum, as well as to enable Indigenous-led initiatives at all levels, consistent with article 39 of the Declaration.

Recommendations for the United Nations entities and Member States

55. The Permanent Forum calls on the Economic and Social Council, including the Ad Hoc Working Group on Mandate Implementation Review, to affirm and protect, by 2026, the distinct and complementary mandates of the Forum, the Expert Mechanism and the Special Rapporteur, ensuring that they remain separate, adequately resourced mechanisms. It underscores that dedicated United Nations platforms are essential to reflect Indigenous Peoples' specific rights, knowledge systems, institutions and priorities across the United Nations system, and requests reporting to the Council by 2027 on measures taken.

56. The Permanent Forum reiterates its recommendation that Member States fully align national legislation and administrative decision-making processes with the right of Indigenous Peoples to free, prior and informed consent, consistent with the Declaration. It emphasizes that consultation is not a substitute for consent and self-determination. The Forum further calls on Member States and United Nations

entities, by 2027, to establish structured mechanisms of engagement with Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous women, to ensure that Indigenous knowledge systems are accorded due weight in policies, programmes and decisions that affect them.

57. The Permanent Forum reiterates its recommendation during its twenty-fourth session for Member States, by 2028, to develop and operationalize comprehensive, rights-based disaggregated data frameworks, co-designed with Indigenous Peoples and inclusive of Indigenous-defined indicators and data governance safeguards. The Forum further urges Member States and United Nations entities to ensure that, by 2027, national statistical offices and relevant institutions receive targeted training on Indigenous-defined indicators and ethical, rights-based data collection, with the meaningful participation of Indigenous experts.

58. As recognized by the Permanent Forum at its twenty-fourth session, Indigenous Peoples are adversely affected by armed conflict and violence yet remain excluded from peacebuilding. Recalling their rights to life, integrity, liberty and security and to live collectively in peace, as affirmed in the Declaration, the Forum calls on Member States to ensure, by 2027, the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in all peace processes, and to implement, by 2030, peace agreements reached with their participation, in partnership with Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions and with adequate resourcing.

59. The Permanent Forum calls upon Member States to ensure compliance with international law and to refrain from intimidating and persecuting Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous leaders and Indigenous human rights defenders.

60. To prevent further harm to Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum calls on the Russian Federation to comply with Security Council resolution 2774 (2025), which implores a swift end to the conflict and further urges a lasting peace between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, and to uphold the order of the International Court of Justice dated 16 March 2022, which states that the Russian Federation should immediately suspend the military operations in the territory of Ukraine.

61. The Permanent Forum calls on Member States, by 2027, to reform criminal justice laws, policies and practices in order to eliminate barriers to access to justice for Indigenous Peoples, including by ensuring culturally safe, trauma-informed and gender-responsive policing, legal aid, adjudication, language and detention services for Indigenous women and children. It further urges Member States, by 2030, to reduce the disproportionate incarceration of Indigenous Peoples, including through diversion, restorative justice and non-custodial measures, and to prohibit and prevent the use of solitary confinement for Indigenous detainees, in full compliance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), supported by independent oversight, disaggregated data collection and regular public reporting.

62. The Permanent Forum reiterates its recommendation during its twenty-fourth session and calls on Member States, by 2027, to initiate and sustain structured dialogues with Indigenous Peoples on identity, equality and non-discrimination, grounded in the minimum standards reflected in the United Nations working definition of Indigenous Peoples, International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 and the principle of self-identification. The Forum further urges Member States, by 2028, to review and repeal race-based legislation and policies, including those based on blood quantum, that undermine Indigenous Peoples' rights to identity and self-determination. In this regard, the Forum calls on Canada to take immediate and concrete legislative measures to fully and finally eliminate all remaining gender discrimination in the Indian Act, in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and in accordance with international human rights standards.

63. The Permanent Forum recommends that all United Nations entities, Member States and other stakeholders affirm the distinct, internationally recognized collective rights of Indigenous Peoples and make clear distinctions regarding their rights in relation to other groups. The Forum reaffirms its previous recommendations and the outcome document of a meeting in 2024 between the Forum, the Expert Mechanism and the Special Rapporteur on this matter,[2] and welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur on recognition of Indigenous Peoples.

64. The Permanent Forum urges Member States and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to recognize and account for the unique vulnerabilities and well-founded fears of Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous leaders and Indigenous human rights defenders, in their interpretation of the refugee definition in the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and refugee protection responses, and to ensure the provision of institutional and financial support for Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous leaders and human rights defenders, whether forcibly displaced across borders or facing internal displacement and persecution.

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)

65. The Permanent Forum reviewed developments related to its six mandated areas through the lens of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, underscoring that gaps in the implementation of free, prior and informed consent and insufficient recognition of Indigenous Peoples as rights holders widen the divide between international commitments and lived realities.

66. Speakers reaffirmed the centrality of lands, territories, resources and relationships with Mother Earth, highlighting Indigenous Peoples' leadership in biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation and environmental governance. At the same time, extractive activities, pollution, militarization, illegal mining, illegal logging, drug trafficking and other illicit economies continue to harm health and well-being, drive displacement and undermine livelihoods and cultural practices.

67. The expansion of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, presents opportunities but also risks, particularly regarding Indigenous Peoples' data and knowledge, rights-based safeguards, environmental impacts, algorithmic bias and violence against Indigenous women and children, that can deepen discrimination and inequality.

68. Economic and social development remain inseparable from self-determination and control over lands, resources and development pathways; without effective free, prior and informed consent, development initiatives risk reinforcing inequalities.

69. The Permanent Forum welcomes the report of the international expert group meeting on nomadic and semi-nomadic Indigenous Peoples (E/C.19/2026/3) and the study on Indigenous Peoples and artificial intelligence (E/C.19/2026/4) and underscores the need for binding, rights-based Indigenous artificial intelligence governance frameworks.

70. With reference to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum during its twenty-second session, the Forum welcomes the study conducted by the United

[2] See www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/indigenouspeoples/sr/statements/outcome-document-rome-feb-2024-meeting-un-mechanisms-indigenous-peoples-rights.pdf.

Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on Indigenous Peoples and the media.

71. The Permanent Forum welcomes language revitalization efforts, including under the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, while expressing concern that Indigenous language loss remains severe due to policies that marginalize these languages in education, health and public life, resulting in persistent language-based discrimination.

72. The Permanent Forum reaffirms that cultural rights are central to the identity, resilience and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples, and emphasizes the need to safeguard Indigenous cultural heritage, including through the repatriation of human remains and ceremonial objects and the protection of sacred sites and Indigenous knowledge systems.

73. The Permanent Forum recognizes the essential role of Indigenous women, midwives, elders and traditional practitioners in maintaining and transmitting Indigenous knowledge, and the vital contribution of Indigenous youth to cultural continuity and the exercise of rights.

74. The Permanent Forum expresses concern over persistent barriers in accessing education, particularly for Indigenous persons with disabilities and those affected by conflict, displacement and environmental degradation, and urges sustained investment in Indigenous-led community programmes that strengthen intergenerational connections to culture, language and Indigenous knowledge. It stresses that education must empower Indigenous Peoples as rights holders and agents of change, in line with the Declaration.

75. The Permanent Forum calls for the establishment of independent monitoring and accountability mechanisms to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration, while underscoring that the credibility and effectiveness of such mechanisms, as well as of truth and reconciliation processes, depend on adequate, sustained resourcing and the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples at all stages.

Recommendations for the United Nations system

76. The Permanent Forum urges Member States and the United Nations system to ensure the territorial integrity, right to internal and cross-border mobility, and meaningful participation in climate and biodiversity governance of cross-border Indigenous Peoples, and to develop, by 2030, protective legal frameworks for nomadic and semi-nomadic Indigenous Peoples.

77. The Permanent Forum urges the United Nations Development Programme, by the end of 2027, to establish and apply a standardized monitoring framework for all country-level projects affecting Indigenous Peoples, including measurable indicators on free, prior and informed consent, participation and socioeconomic impacts, to ensure positive development outcomes and prevent further hardship.

78. Recalling paragraph 146 of the report of its twenty-third session, the Permanent Forum calls upon UNESCO to develop, in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples, a fair, transparent, effective and participatory international mechanism for repatriating Indigenous Peoples' human remains, cultural patrimony and sacred objects.

79. The Permanent Forum encourages Member States and other stakeholders to strengthen support for Indigenous-led media, recommends that UNESCO and Member States develop, by 2030, targeted action plans to strengthen Indigenous media capacity and ensure adequate, unbiased representation of Indigenous Peoples

in public media, and urges UNESCO to engage its national commissions in close partnership with Indigenous Peoples across all relevant initiatives.

80. The Permanent Forum urges the United Nations system, Member States and all stakeholders to include a dedicated section on Indigenous Peoples in all artificial intelligence development and deployment frameworks, ensuring the protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights, including Indigenous data sovereignty and the safeguarding of Indigenous knowledge. It further calls for the development of instruments, safeguards and grant schemes to promote digital equity and prevent harm from and misuse of digital technologies, particularly in relation to Indigenous women and children.

81. The Permanent Forum recommends that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) formally adopt the Indigenous Peoples' declaration presented at the seventh United Nations Environment Assembly as its engagement framework, institutionalize a special dialogue within the Assembly, ensuring that its outputs inform the UNEP programme of work, and support the establishment of a dedicated working group on Indigenous environmental issues within the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples Issues.

82. The Permanent Forum urges the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food and Knowledge Systems, in coordination with the Forum, Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, to ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in discussions on food and knowledge systems at the Committee on World Food Security during its fifty-forth and fifty-fifth sessions, and to finalize amendments to the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management to include Indigenous Peoples' free, prior and informed consent. It further calls upon the Committee on Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to adopt those amendments before the end of 2026.

83. The Permanent Forum calls upon the Global Environment Facility to provide direct funding to Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous women; recognize Indigenous-led financing mechanisms as eligible recipients; establish transparent monitoring of funds reaching Indigenous Peoples' communities; and simplify access criteria in line with free, prior and informed consent.

84. The Permanent Forum urges Member States where Indigenous Peoples are affected by organized crime to recognize their role in territorial security, protect Indigenous leaders and Indigenous human rights defenders, end impunity and ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in security policy, including at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Recommendations for Member States

85. The Permanent Forum calls upon Member States to take steps, by 2027, to establish or strengthen independent, adequately resourced national monitoring and redress mechanisms with clear mandates and indicators to systematically track, report on and assess progress in the implementation of the Declaration.

86. The Permanent Forum urges Member States to ratify the Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge, with a view to its entry into force by 2027, and calls upon States and the World Intellectual Property Organization to establish clear procedures, timelines and adequate resources to ensure the full, effective and rights-based participation of Indigenous Peoples in the Treaty's implementation, monitoring and review.

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

87. The Permanent Forum recognizes the importance of Indigenous platforms established within United Nations entities. These platforms contribute to realizing Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination and their full and effective participation in processes that affect them. The proliferation of these platforms underscores the importance of the Forum's mandate to promote the integration and coordination of activities related to Indigenous issues within the United Nations system.

88. The Permanent Forum welcomes the establishment of an Indigenous Peoples' Caucus, which is separate from the caucus of local communities, at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, to engage with Indigenous Peoples, recognizing that Indigenous Peoples are distinct from local communities. The Forum welcomes the terms of reference of the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus, prepared in consultation with Indigenous Peoples; calls for their adoption at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention; and requests that adequate and sustained funding be secured to ensure the effective and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples.

89. The Permanent Forum urges United Nations entities and Member States to provide direct funding for capacity-building and educational programmes enabling Indigenous Peoples to participate effectively across United Nations platforms and processes.

90. The Permanent Forum welcomes the decision taken by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage at its forty-seventh session on the report of the open-ended working group established by the extended forty-fifth session of the World Heritage Committee, requesting the World Heritage Centre to work with Indigenous Peoples to identify ways to enhance their participation and to better reflect their heritage values and cultural perspectives when listing, managing and monitoring world heritage sites and their outstanding universal value. The Forum also expresses its interest in working with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to implement this decision and to participate in future sessions of the Committee.

91. The Permanent Forum welcomes the self-assessment carried out by the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), notes its findings and urges IFAD to continue to support the operational integration and dissemination of and follow-up to its recommendations and to continue to promote the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in their work.

92. The Permanent Forum welcomes the theme of the eighth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD of "Indigenous Peoples' rural economies: sustainable livelihoods for the future" and urges IFAD to work closely with relevant United Nations entities and the Forum to advance understanding of and support for Indigenous Peoples' self-determined economies.

93. The Permanent Forum encourages the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its seventeenth meeting, to adopt a modus operandi for the Subsidiary Body on Article 8 (j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities that strengthens enhanced participation mechanisms, building on those of the former Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and

Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and that respects the seven sociocultural regions used in the United Nations system. The Forum welcomes the implementation of the programme of work on article 8 (j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities until 2030 through the Subsidiary Body and encourages the adoption of the voluntary guidelines developed under tasks 1.1 and 1.2 to strengthen legal and policy frameworks recognizing Indigenous Peoples' territories. The Forum further encourages a clear, inclusive and participatory process to review and update the voluntary glossary of key terms and concepts under article 8 (j), in light of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in order to clarify terminology and uphold the distinct status and rights of Indigenous Peoples.

94. The Permanent Forum also requests that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Convention to Combat Desertification processes and the Subsidiary Body on Article 8 (j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities continue to formally invite the Forum to their meetings, maintain a standing agenda item on its recommendations and give those recommendations due consideration, particularly in processes that may affect Indigenous Peoples' rights.

95. The Permanent Forum reiterates its call for Member States and United Nations entities to provide funding for the Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, which is critical for Indigenous-led food sovereignty.

96. The Permanent Forum notes with appreciation the preparatory work towards the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, and emphasizes the importance of ensuring the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in discussions around water governance.

97. The Permanent Forum welcomes the adoption, in August 2025, of resolution RES/EXT-III MRE-OTCA/17 establishing the Amazon Mechanism of Indigenous Peoples within the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, as well as the convening of the Mechanism's first ordinary meeting in December 2025, marking an important step towards its operationalization. The Forum underscores that the Mechanism represents a significant advance in strengthening dialogue between Governments and the Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon, consistent with international human rights standards and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly the right to full and effective participation in decision-making, and invites the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization to report on progress achieved at the Forum's twenty-sixth session.

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

98. The year 2026 represents a critical juncture for the advancement of Indigenous Peoples' rights across the United Nations system, marked by the convening of the three Conferences of the Parties to the Rio Conventions – the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa – as well as meetings of the governing bodies of other multilateral agreements.

99. The Permanent Forum functions as a key convenor across intergovernmental bodies and processes, including those addressing water, artificial intelligence, trade, human rights and other cross-cutting issues. The Declaration is the foundational framework for implementation of Indigenous Peoples' rights. The Forum welcomes additional frameworks such as the Indigenous determinants of health which provide

a practical blueprint for this coordination, strengthening coherence and cooperation among United Nations entities and ensuring that Indigenous Peoples' rights are systematically reflected across the broader framework of international law.

Recommendations for Member States

100. The Permanent Forum urges Member States participating in ongoing climate, biodiversity, water, intellectual property and digital governance negotiations to recognize Indigenous Peoples as distinct rights holders and decision makers, while ensuring that they do not undermine Indigenous Peoples' governance processes.

101. The Permanent Forum calls upon Member States, by 2028, to advance meaningful and sustained participation in the World Health Assembly and at the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction by establishing an Indigenous advisory mechanism within each institution, mandated to engage regularly with Indigenous Peoples, to advise and support the respective governing bodies of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and to report annually on their contributions to decision-making processes.

102. The Permanent Forum calls upon Member States, by 2027, to ensure the meaningful engagement of Indigenous Peoples in deliberations on water governance, artificial intelligence, UN80 Initiative reform discussions, the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, and related multilateral processes, including through structured consultations and participatory roles, in order to ensure that Indigenous Peoples are recognized and enabled as decision makers in reform initiatives.

103. The Permanent Forum acknowledges the entry into force on 17 January 2026 of the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and its relevance to Indigenous Peoples, particularly in relation to ocean governance, marine biodiversity and traditional knowledge. It urges States that have not yet ratified the Agreement to do so without delay, and calls upon States, United Nations entities and funders to ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, including women and young people, in its implementation, including through preparatory processes, subsidiary bodies and meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

Recommendations for United Nations entities

104. The Permanent Forum urges the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to lead the annual observance of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Women and Girls (see General Assembly resolution 80/10). It also encourages UN-Women to allocate human, technical and financial resources, including through partnerships and voluntary contributions, to support meaningful observance at all levels.

105. The Permanent Forum calls on Rio Conventions secretariats, through a mandate by their Joint Liaison Group, to map past, current and ongoing activities that support Indigenous Peoples' rights across their instruments, frameworks and bodies, with a view to encouraging other United Nations entities to engage in similar mapping exercises, and report to the Forum at its twenty-sixth session.

106. The Permanent Forum invites the secretariats of the three Rio Conventions to provide, at its twenty-sixth session, updates on efforts to strengthen coordination

across workplans and priorities. It further invites them to ensure the robust and systematic participation of Indigenous Peoples, in line with their mandates, in meetings of constituted and subsidiary bodies held in advance of sessions of the Conference of the Parties, including the 2026 meetings of the of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and preparations for the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8 (j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

107. The Permanent Forum welcomes the WHO draft framework for respectful engagement with Indigenous Peoples on biodiversity, health and traditional knowledge systems and calls upon WHO, in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, to finalize and operationalize the framework.[3]

Thematic dialogue on the financing of Indigenous Peoples' work and participation across the multilateral and regional system (item 5 (g))

108. The Permanent Forum held a thematic dialogue on the financing of Indigenous Peoples' work and participation across the multilateral and regional system. Speakers affirmed that, for millenniums, Indigenous Peoples have managed their own economic systems, generating enduring systems of true wealth as guardians of Mother Earth, in accordance with the values of reciprocity and respect for others and nature, rooted in Indigenous Peoples' self-determination. The Forum noted the consistent call for a paradigm shift from treating Indigenous Peoples as beneficiaries to recognizing them as rights holders, co-governors and trusted partners.

109. The Permanent Forum is concerned that, despite repeated commitments to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, they continue to face chronic underfinancing and structural barriers that undermine self-determination and autonomy.

110. The Permanent Forum welcomes the land and forest tenure pledge announced at the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to support Indigenous Peoples' priorities in land rights, conservation and direct financing.

Recommendations for the United Nations system

111. The Permanent Forum reiterates its request for Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues, managed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, noting that it provides crucial support to the Forum and its follow-up on recommendations to implement the Declaration.

112. The Permanent Forum calls on the Forest Tenure Funders Group to implement its commitment to ensure direct access for Indigenous Peoples to funds and, beginning at its twenty-sixth session, to provide it with regular and transparent reports on direct fund disbursement, implementation and traceability.

113. The Permanent Forum calls on the Green Climate Fund to implement the recommendation of its Independent Evaluation Unit to establish direct funding modalities and dedicated financing arrangements for Indigenous Peoples before its next replenishment, enabling direct access, simplified procedures and Indigenous-led governance, aligned with the Fund's mandate and the Declaration.

[3] E/C.19/2026/CRP.1.

114. The Permanent Forum reiterates its recommendation at its twenty-third session regarding the enhanced participation of Indigenous Peoples at United Nations meetings on issues affecting them and continues to call upon Member States to financially support the Indigenous Coordinating Body for Enhanced Participation in the United Nations. It further recommends that discussions on enhanced participation in the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council always include both Indigenous Peoples and Member States. Furthermore, the Forum welcomes the appointment of two Indigenous advisers and advises future Presidents of the General Assembly to do the same.

115. The Permanent Forum urges United Nations entities and Member States, in their implementation of the outcome of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, namely the Sevilla Commitment, to ensure that the global financing for development framework guarantees the rights of Indigenous Peoples pursuant to the Declaration and ensures their meaningful, full and effective participation.

116. The Permanent Forum notes with concern the impact of the UN80 Initiative reform and budgetary constraints on the three main Indigenous-specific mechanisms of the United Nations and urges the Organization and its Member States to sufficiently resource these mechanisms, recognizing that each mandate has a distinct and complementary role in advancing the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

117. The Permanent Forum calls upon Member States, multilateral environmental funds, international financial institutions and United Nations entities, including the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, to provide adequate, sustained and predictable financial and technical assistance to support the enhanced participation of Indigenous Peoples at all levels, with dedicated allocations for Indigenous women and young people and Indigenous Peoples in remote locations.

118. The Permanent Forum calls upon Member States, United Nations entities and financing institutions to adapt financing frameworks to ensure the equitable inclusion of Indigenous Peoples across all seven sociocultural regions, including those in developed States, based on need and the disproportionate impact of climate change.

119. The Permanent Forum urges financing mechanisms to adopt an approach based on distinctions, without conflating Indigenous Peoples with local communities or other social groups, and to refrain from invoking the absence of national legal recognition to exclude Indigenous Peoples from the application of safeguards.

120. The Permanent Forum calls on multilateral environment funds and international financing institutions, by 2028, to expand and revise funding and eligibility criteria to ensure that Indigenous Peoples receive funding that is direct, dedicated, long-term, flexible, equitable, co-governed and aligned with the Declaration and self-determined priorities.

121. The Permanent Forum urges the Council of the Global Environment Facility to approve the aspirational funding target of 20%, and to allocate $100 million to the Indigenous Conservation Initiative in the Facility's ninth replenishment cycle, to include "Indigenous and traditional territories"[4] in the results framework and to ensure distinction-based disbursement and tracking that support Indigenous Peoples' rights.

122. The Permanent Forum urges development banks and international financial institutions to respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples to determine their own identity or membership in relation to access to financing. They should also ensure that accountability and safeguarding mechanisms include an independent compliance

[4] Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Target 3 (CBD/COP/15/L.25).

review when Indigenous Peoples present documented evidence of harm, and that free, prior and informed consent is applied consistently and without exception.

123. The Permanent Forum urges Member States, United Nations entities, financial institutions and philanthropic funders to take concrete steps, by 2027, to institutionalize the Core Human Rights Principles for Private Conservation Organizations and Funders developed by the United Nations Environment Programme, including by embedding co-governance structures, ensuring transparency in funding flows and adopting accountability frameworks that are accessible to Indigenous Peoples.

Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council, the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and emerging issues (item 6)

124. The Permanent Forum will convene a closed meeting at its next session for Indigenous women and girls to share experiences and identify actions to address gaps in implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

125. The Permanent Forum thanks the Inuit organization Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated for hosting its 2026 pre-sessional meeting. The Forum expresses appreciation to States that have hosted previous pre-sessional and intersessional meetings and encourages States to host future meetings. The Forum requests its secretariat to continue organizing these meetings.

126. The Permanent Forum welcomes the planned commemoration by the General Assembly of the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration in 2027 and recommends ensuring the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations mechanisms on the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

127. The Permanent Forum is concerned about the reduced participation of Indigenous Peoples, especially from Asia, Africa and the Pacific, at its twenty-fifth session and highlights the necessity of increasing financial and administrative support, including removing visa and other barriers, to enable their participation.

128. The Permanent Forum calls upon Member States and the Secretary-General to ensure that the Forum and its secretariat are adequately resourced and protected from any liquidity crises.

129. The Permanent Forum calls upon the United Nations Secretariat and Member States to ensure that Indigenous Peoples are provided with adequate, dignified, secure and accessible meeting space at all Forum sessions.

130. The Permanent Forum acknowledges the Second Global Summit on Indigenous Peacebuilding and recalls its recommendation from its twentieth session to continue facilitating a process among Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations system regarding Indigenous peacebuilding, and will continue to consider an International Decade on Indigenous Peoples' Peacebuilding.

131. The Permanent Forum expresses grave concern over escalating attempts to undermine its independence. Member States shall ensure the full protection of the Forum and its independence, mandate, composition, work and members.

132. The Permanent Forum welcomes General Assembly resolution 80/191, in which the Assembly decided to initiate, at the high-level panel to be held during the high-level week of the eighty-second session of the Assembly, in 2027, a discussion on the organization of the Second World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in 2028.

133. The Permanent Forum decided to prepare four studies on the following topics and to present them at its twenty-sixth session:

(a) Indigenous Peoples' self-determined economies;

(b) Illegal economies and organized crime in Indigenous Peoples' territories;

(c) Aligning global systems with the Indigenous determinants of health approach: access, financing and governance for the realization of Indigenous Peoples' rights;

(d) Reviewing the implementation of the system-wide action plan on the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

134. The Permanent Forum recommends ensuring the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples from all regions in the high-level political forum on sustainable development and in the Sustainable Development Goals Summit to be held in 2027, promoting their leadership.

Chapter II
Organization of the session

A. Venue and dates

135. The Permanent Forum held its twenty-fifth session at United Nations Headquarters from 20 April to 1 May 2026, pursuant to Council decision 2025/332. It held 12 formal meetings and 7 closed informal meetings to consider the items on its agenda. The record of speakers of the formal meetings is available at https://igov.un.org/ecosoc/unpfii/25/meetings.

B. Opening of the session

136. On 20 April, the session was opened by the temporary Chair, the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. At the opening ceremony, the traditional Chief of the Onondaga Nation, Tadodaho Sid Hill, delivered a welcoming address.

137. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Governor General of Canada and the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs.

C. Proceedings and adoption of the report

138. The Permanent Forum held discussions under agenda items 3, 4 and 6 on 21, 24 and 29 April, respectively, and dialogues on agenda items 5 (a) to 5 (g) on 20, 22, 23 and 27 to 29 April. The Forum also considered agenda items 1 and 2 on 20 April and agenda items 7 and 8 on 1 May.

139. On 1 May, the Rapporteur introduced the draft decisions submitted under agenda items 7 and 8 (see chap. I, sect. A), the recommendations submitted under agenda items 3, 4, 5 (c) to (g) and 6 (see chap. I, sect. B) and the draft report, which the Permanent Forum then adopted.

D. Attendance

140. Members of the Permanent Forum and representatives of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and bodies, United Nations entities and non-governmental and Indigenous Peoples' organizations attended the session. The list of participants will be issued as document E/C.19/2026/INF/1.

E. Election of officers

141. On 20 April, the Permanent Forum elected the following members of the Bureau by acclamation:

Chair:
Aluki Kotierk

Vice-Chairs:
Amina Amharech
Valts Ernštreits

Lea Nicholas-MacKenzie
Rodrigo Paillalef
Emma Rawson-Te Patu

Rapporteur:
Jennifer Tauli Corpuz

F. Agenda

142. On 20 April, the Permanent Forum adopted the provisional agenda (E/C.19/2026/1) and proposed programme of work (E/C.19/2026/L.1).

G. Documentation

143. The documents before the Permanent Forum are available at https://social.desa.un.org/issues/indigenous-peoples/unpfii/25th-session.

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