



# Economic and Social Council

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## Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Twenty-fourth session

New York, 21 April–2 May 2025

### 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

##### 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)

1. The Permanent Forum welcomes the request for the President of the General Assembly, through Assembly resolution [79/159](#), to convene a high-level panel to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2027. The meeting should be entitled “Second World Conference on Indigenous Peoples” and should serve to review the implementation of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples of 2014 and recent developments pertaining to the rights of Indigenous Peoples. The enhanced participation of Indigenous Peoples in the event must be ensured. The Forum urges United Nations entities, financial partners and others to support Indigenous Peoples in organizing the preparatory meetings for the high-level event.
2. The Permanent Forum reiterates the recommendations of its eighteenth session and urges the Secretary-General to appoint a special envoy or special adviser, in consultation with Indigenous Peoples, to raise awareness of and promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples and to provide support in the follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference.
3. The Permanent Forum notes that Indigenous Peoples have long struggled to have their voices heard at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and other venues. The Secretary General’s UN80 Initiative, under which all United Nations activities



and the current liquidity crisis are being reviewed, should not result in the diminished participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives at the United Nations; rather, it should serve as an opportunity to enhance the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, including by finalizing the processes outlined in General Assembly resolution [71/321](#).

4. The Permanent Forum supports the convening of a fourth seminar on treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and Indigenous Peoples, to be organized in conjunction with the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

5. The Permanent Forum welcomes the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in General Assembly resolution [78/327](#) and requests that States ensure their effective and meaningful participation throughout the preparatory processes leading up to the United Nations Water Conferences of 2026 and 2028. This includes facilitating the registration of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and representatives, promoting full engagement in all process stages and adopting an approach aligned with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

6. The Permanent Forum urges the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, ahead of its World Conservation Congress of 2025, to reaffirm Indigenous Peoples' inherent rights to their lands and territories in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including where these overlap with protected areas. The Forum rejects conservation models that undermine Indigenous Peoples' governance and customary law.

7. The Permanent Forum recognizes the practical difficulties of organizing its sessions in New York due to barriers to participation faced by Indigenous Peoples. In line with Economic and Social Council resolution [2000/22](#), it will consider alternate venues.

8. The Permanent Forum requests that Member States donate to the trust fund on Indigenous issues, which is managed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations. The fund provides crucial support to the Forum and its follow-up on recommendations to fully implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

9. The Permanent Forum welcomes the initiative of Mexico to hold an expert seminar in August 2025 to explore best practices for implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

10. Artificial intelligence poses challenges and opportunities for Indigenous Peoples. The Permanent Forum recommends that United Nations entities involved in developing, governing and applying artificial intelligence and digital technologies ensure the meaningful inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in the entities' processes for the benefit of Indigenous Peoples. The Forum offers assistance in identifying experts in artificial intelligence and in Indigenous Peoples' rights.

11. The Permanent Forum decided to comprehensively assess its work to improve and strengthen the Forum's effectiveness. It will be carried out by a volunteer group of current Forum members at no cost, who can invite former Members from the seven sociocultural regions to make contributions. The Forum will report on this process at its twenty-fifth session.

12. The Permanent Forum decided to conduct four studies and to present them at its twenty-fifth session.