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Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum**Update on the activities of the members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch****Note by the Secretariat***Summary*

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch to support the implementation of the Forum's mandated areas of work and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In the report, relevant strategies and priorities undertaken in that regard are highlighted, drawn from information provided by the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as members of the Permanent Forum.

* [E/C.19/2019/1](#).



I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of the actions and initiatives taken by the members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum and of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It also includes information concerning ongoing activities carried out by the Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch – Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs) to provide substantive support for the implementation of the mandate of the Permanent Forum and follow up on the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, with particular reference to achieving the ends of the Declaration.

2. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is an expert body tasked with providing advice on indigenous issues to the Economic and Social Council. It was established by Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/22. The substantive areas of the mandate of the Permanent Forum relate to culture, economic and social development, education, the environment, health and human rights. Since the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007, the Forum has also had the mandate to promote respect for and the full application of the provisions of the Declaration and to follow up on its effectiveness (art. 42 of the Declaration).

3. The engagement and role of the Permanent Forum in promoting indigenous peoples' rights is facilitated by the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues, which supports follow-up to the Forum's recommendations, awareness-raising and outreach on indigenous issues, as well as the representation and participation of Permanent Forum members at intersessional meetings of significance for its mandate and which aim to follow up on the recommendations of the annual sessions of the Permanent Forum. In addition, the Trust Fund provides support for activities related to the implementation of the Declaration. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs is charged with the overall management of the Trust Fund, which is administered by the Branch.

4. In recognition of the increased attention paid to indigenous issues and to the follow up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held in 2014, the Division for Inclusive Social Development has strengthened the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which, in 2018, was renamed the Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch – Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The central functions of the Branch are to provide substantive assistance and support to the Permanent Forum in carrying out its mandate and to provide substantive and policy support to intergovernmental processes and bodies related to indigenous issues. The Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs is tasked with the follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, in particular, with respect to the system-wide action plan on the rights of indigenous peoples.

5. The Branch also carries out substantive work on promoting indigenous issues cross-sectorally within the United Nations system and with relevant stakeholders.

6. In addition, the Branch organizes, on an annual basis, the commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, focusing on an emerging issue of topical interest. Examples of such issues include indigenous peoples' rights to education and to health and well-being, and indigenous media, with panellists including ministers, experts on the theme and academics. For instance, in 2018, the commemoration focused on migration, a topic of global concern, and the event

highlighted the need to protect indigenous peoples' rights and identity, within or outside their traditional territories, and especially in urban settings.

7. In addition, the Branch serves as the permanent co-chair of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues.¹ A main focus of the Support Group is implementing the United Nations system-wide action plan on the rights of indigenous peoples (E/C.19/2016/5), which was developed pursuant to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (General Assembly resolution 69/2). The Branch takes a lead role in the follow-up to the action plan, as well as in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with and for indigenous peoples.

8. Every year, the Branch organizes a pre-session meeting, generally between January and March, prior to the annual session of the Permanent Forum (held in April–May). The aim of the meeting is two-fold: (a) to provide an opportunity for the Permanent Forum members to engage in discussions and dialogues with government and local authorities, as well as with indigenous peoples in the host country of the meeting, so as to gain valuable insight into the situation on the ground and provide concrete suggestions drawn from their knowledge and experience; and (b) to enable the members to strategize during the period between the annual sessions and prepare for the next session.

9. The pre-session meetings also allow Permanent Forum members to share and exchange information on their work and activities, receive briefings from the Branch on relevant developments, and discuss and prepare for the next session. In addition, as the Forum applies a rotation principle for its Bureau, the selection of the Chair, Rapporteur and four Vice-Chairs takes place during the pre-session meeting. The formal election is conducted at the opening of the session.

10. The pre-session meetings are hosted each year by a different Member State. Previous meetings have been held in Nuuk, Greenland (2006); Beijing, China (2007); Madrid, Spain (2008); Karasjohka, Norway (2009); Lake Titicaca, Plurinational State of Bolivia (2010); Ottawa, Canada (2011); Managua, Nicaragua (2012); Brazzaville, Republic of Congo (2013); Mexico City, Mexico (2014); New York, United States of America (2015, on an exceptional basis); Guatemala City, Guatemala (2016); Ottawa, Canada (2017); and Sucre and La Paz, Plurinational State of Bolivia (2018).

II. Ongoing actions and activities to implement the mandate of the Forum to achieve the ends the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

11. The Permanent Forum participates at international meetings of importance to its mandate and has actively promoted indigenous peoples' participation at intergovernmental meetings to achieve greater awareness and protection of indigenous peoples' rights. The Permanent Forum also creates a space for cooperation with the United Nations system, Member States and other stakeholders through its comprehensive recommendations in all the areas of its mandate. In addition, the Forum is the foremost body for dialogue between indigenous peoples, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and States, and its annual sessions are recognized as being the largest United Nations gathering on indigenous issues. Its impact and reach

¹ The Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues was established to support and promote the work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration has served as a catalyst for promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples worldwide.

are increasing as the Forum continues to provide advice and input on emerging issues, including the 2030 Agenda.

12. To facilitate the achievement of its mandate, the Permanent Forum recognized the need for its members to take a proactive role in monitoring the implementation of the Forum's recommendations. The Forum's database of recommendations, which was developed and is updated annually by the Branch, is a useful working tool in this regard. In some cases, the database of recommendations and the status of their implementation also contains an indicative time frame (short, medium or long term) for the implementation of each recommendation. The updates by the Branch are based on information received by the United Nations system and States. The database was used, for instance, by Mr. Oliver Loode, a member of the Forum, to prepare a conference room paper entitled "Report on the implementation of recommendations",² which provides an analysis of the level of implementation of the recommendations of the Forum's fourteenth session, through members' active intervention (in conjunction with the Branch). At each session, the Forum member appointed as Rapporteur provides an overview of the follow-up to the recommendations.

13. The Permanent Forum has used integrated approaches such as high-level panels, expert reports and cross-cutting themes to place emerging and critical issues facing indigenous peoples on the global agenda. Furthermore, in response to the input and feedback received, in 2018, the Forum incorporated an innovative approach to its methods of work, with the aim of striking a strategic balance in providing space for indigenous peoples, Member States, United Nations entities and others to share good practices and challenges for implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and for the Forum members to formulate expert advice and policy recommendations on how to address those issues and propose a way forward. To that end, the Forum has instituted the following methodology for its annual sessions:

(a) The first week of the Forum is devoted to plenary discussions on key themes that deserve greater attention;

(b) During the second week, members of the Forum hold informal meetings with representatives of indigenous peoples, Member States and United Nations entities. The purpose of these meetings is to draw on information presented during the first week and channel it into policy recommendations that are strategic, focused and actionable;

(c) Simultaneous regional dialogues are also held during the second week with indigenous peoples and Member States from the seven sociocultural regions, so that Permanent Forum members can conduct focused interactive discussions on issues that are relevant to the regions.

14. Following the positive input received regarding the session in 2018, the above-mentioned method of work will also be applied at the session in 2019.

15. Owing to the contributions, participation and focused recommendations of the Permanent Forum, as well as the work of indigenous peoples' organizations and representatives, indigenous priorities have been included in major global frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. Those priorities have also been incorporated into the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and other policy processes of the United Nations

² Available at https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/2016/Docs-updates/Statement_by_Oliver_Loode_on_implementation_of_UNPFII_2015_recommendations.pdf.

system. These global frameworks and platforms provide valuable opportunities to advance indigenous peoples' rights at the policy level, to be followed through at the operational level.

16. The central priority in the coming years will be to ensure that the aspirations embodied in development agreements are translated into concrete improvements in the lives of indigenous peoples and achieving indigenous peoples' rights as enshrined in the Declaration. The Permanent Forum continues to provide expert advice to ensure that indigenous peoples' rights are fully understood, respected and promoted in the implementation, follow-up and review of global agendas.

17. The members of the Permanent Forum have been engaged in actively promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples at various levels in their own spheres of influence, including at the global, regional, country and community levels. The following paragraphs set out examples of the range and depth of the efforts and activities of the members.

18. Ms. Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine (Chair) has represented the Permanent Forum at a number of intergovernmental meetings within the United Nations system, as well as at regional and international meetings, including meetings on indigenous territorial rights, the 2030 Agenda, the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, restorative justice, migration and indigenous women.

19. During the expert group meeting on sustainable development in the territories of indigenous peoples organized by the Branch in 2018, Ms. Aboubakrine emphasized that concepts of land are central to indigenous peoples' identities and ways of life; reiterated indigenous peoples' unique perspective on land as a gift, rather than a possession; and noted the importance of indigenous land rights for achieving sustainable development (see [E/C.19/2018/7](#)).

20. Ms. Aboubakrine also participated in the high-level segment of the 2018 session of the Economic and Social Council entitled "From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities". The high-level segment represents the culmination of the Council's annual cycle of work and convenes a diverse group of high-level representatives from Governments, the private sector, civil society and academia for policy dialogue, review and recommendations on the 2030 Agenda and other internationally agreed development goals.

21. Ms. Aboubakrine participates regularly at the annual meetings of the Chair of the Economic and Social Council with the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies to provide input and feedback. In that context, the Forum was highlighted for addressing the peace and development nexus, in particular for the theme of its 2016 session, which was "Indigenous peoples: conflict, peace and resolution".

22. The Forum has also been engaged in the issue of restorative justice. Ms. Aboubakrine was invited to speak at the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna from 14 to 18 May 2018. In her video statement to the plenary, Ms. Aboubakrine urged the Commission to closely coordinate activities with United Nations mechanisms on indigenous issues, giving special consideration to the relationship between restorative justice and indigenous approaches to justice. This is a concrete example of subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and expert forums cooperating and synergizing their work. This joint cooperation continues.

23. Ms. Aboubakrine participated at several meetings and events in her capacity as the Chair of the Forum, including a meeting organized by the Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples on 23 May 2018 in Ottawa, at which she spoke on the process of voluntary national reviews in relation to the 2030 Agenda and the importance of providing information on the situation of indigenous peoples.

24. The Chair also participated at the annual session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and at the event to commemorate the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The theme of the International Day in 2018 was "Indigenous peoples' migration and movement". At the event, Ms. Aboubakrine stressed that migration is a reality for indigenous peoples displaced by conflict and climate change, as well as development projects, and that their rights needs to be given due attention, especially in the context of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.³

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and indigenous women

25. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has been providing input and analysis to the ongoing process on the 2030 Agenda, working in close cooperation with the indigenous peoples' major group. The Forum has included in its sessions a standing agenda item on the 2030 Agenda in order to gather input and suggestions on better integrating the rights of indigenous peoples into the process at the global, regional and country levels.

26. Mr. Brian Keane (Rapporteur) addressed the integration segment of the Economic and Social Council in May 2018, under the theme "Innovative communities: leveraging technology and innovation to build sustainable and resilient societies". The integration segment brought together key stakeholders – Member States, the United Nations system, other international organizations, the private sector, academia and civil society organizations – to assess the status of integration and coherence of actions towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. The integration segment is also part of a series of events that will examine options for leveraging technology and innovation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The outcome of the segment was a summary by the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council,⁴ highlighting the main policy recommendations and providing guidance on implementing the 2030 Agenda through policy integration.

27. Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea (Vice-Chair) has actively highlighted the need to increase the visibility of indigenous women and girls in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including through enhanced data disaggregation by sex and the full participation of indigenous women in the design of education systems that promote sustainable development, and the need to guarantee that the Sustainable Development Goals are implemented based on the principles of gender equality, intergenerational dialogue, horizontal intercultural exchange and the framework of collective and individual rights of indigenous peoples and women.

28. At various events during the high-level political forum on sustainable development, held in New York in 2018, Ms. Rivera Zea called for the recognition of the role of indigenous women in the management of resources and their contribution to sustainable development; the situation of indigenous women as human rights defenders; and the different forms of violence in the context of migration due to insecurity in indigenous territories. She also highlighted the need for recognition of indigenous peoples' role as guardians of biodiversity and the need to guarantee their right to participate in decision-making in the context of biodiversity-related conventions; the role of indigenous youth in leading the way to the future for sustainable development; and the rights of indigenous peoples' in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6, highlighting the holistic meaning of water in the life of indigenous peoples.

³ Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/08/Journe%CC%81e-Internationale-des-PAMariamUNFPPII.pdf>.

⁴ Available at https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2018doc/summary_of_integration_segment_2018.pdf.

29. The Permanent Forum has also followed up on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.⁵ Ms. Rivera Zea noted the lack of data and references to indigenous peoples, women, children and youth in the country reports on the implementation of the Consensus. She also stressed the need to implement and monitor the priority measures of the Consensus in a culturally relevant manner and with the full participation of indigenous peoples.

30. Ms. Rivera Zea, who is responsible for the portfolios relating to indigenous women and to health, has provided expert advice to assist in the work of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on the issue of health and violence against women. On the same issue, Mr. Keane (Rapporteur) participated at an expert meeting on indigenous peoples' health, organized by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and PAHO in July 2018 in Washington, D.C. In addition, Ms. Rivera Zea participated actively at meetings of ParLAmericas, the twenty-fourth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other events to highlight these issues.

31. As a concrete example of engagement at the national level in Peru, Ms. Rivera Zea has been promoting the inclusion of indigenous peoples' rights by the Government and civil society actors in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. She provides advice on an ongoing basis to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture on issues such as language policy, education, interculturality and the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the planning of activities for the celebration of the bicentenary of Peru in 2021.

32. From 21 to 23 November 2018, upon the initiative of Ms. Rivera Zea, Chirapaq (Centre for Indigenous Cultures of Peru) and the International Indigenous Women's Forum organized a gathering for the Latin American and Caribbean region aimed at strengthening the knowledge of networks and indigenous organizations on the work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The meeting was attended by some 85 indigenous delegates from 19 countries. Mr. Jesús Guadalupe Fuentes Blanco, a Forum member, and a staff member of the Branch also attended the meeting to provide information on the work of the Forum and of the Branch. A second gathering will be organized by Abya Yala Indigenous Forum in October 2019.

Indigenous peoples' health and well-being

33. Mr. Phoolman Chaudhary participated in the third global consultation on the development of international guidelines on human rights and drug policy in Bangkok as a panellist in the thematic panel discussion on development, cultural and indigenous rights. Mr. Chaudhary reflected on how existing drug control laws and policies affect the Permanent Forum's work and the communities with which it works, as well as the importance of human rights, in particular for indigenous peoples.

34. Mr. Gervais Nzoa presented a statement on indigenous maternal health at the Maternal Health Thematic Fund annual meeting, held by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Nairobi in September 2018.

35. Ms. Aboubakrine (Chair) and Ms. Lourdes Tibán Guala participated at the high-level forum "Empowerment of indigenous women for the eradication of hunger and malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean" of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The high-level forum was organized by FAO and the Government of Mexico in Mexico City in January 2018. The event was attended by more than 150 indigenous women from 14 countries. As one of the

⁵ Available at https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/21860/15/S20131039_en.pdf.

panellists, Ms. Tibán Guala specifically discussed the importance of political participation in the generation of intercultural policies against hunger.

36. Mr. Fuentes Blanco participated in the High-Level Expert Seminar on Indigenous Food Systems organized by FAO, in conjunction with the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other partners, in November 2018 in Rome. More than 60 panellists from some 40 countries shared their perspectives on how to ensure the transmission of traditional knowledge that allows indigenous food producers and systems to grow food and manage the environment in the seven sociocultural regions.

Indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources

37. Over the years, the Permanent Forum has stressed that ensuring the collective rights of indigenous peoples to lands, territories and resources is essential not only for their well-being, but also for addressing some of the most pressing global challenges, such as climate change and environmental degradation (see [E/2018/43-E/C.19/2018/11](#), para. 10).

38. The theme of seventeenth session of the Permanent Forum, held in 2018, was “Indigenous peoples’ collective rights to lands, territories and resources”. The aim was to identify challenges and advances, as well as to highlight action to be taken by Member States, United Nations entities and other stakeholders.

39. With regard to the recommendations from the seventeenth session that deal with collective rights to lands and territories and, more specifically, the experiences of indigenous autonomies (see [E/2018/43-E/C.19/2018/11](#), paras. 7–11 and 22, and [E/C.19/2018/7](#), para. 58), Mr. Jens Dahl, is working with the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs to organize a technical meeting on indigenous autonomies. The meeting will take place in March 2019 in Mexico, co-convened by the Permanent Forum, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, with the support of the Branch.

40. At the national level in Denmark, Mr. Dahl meets on a regular basis with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Members of Parliament from Greenland, as well as other partners, to promote higher visibility for indigenous issues in the national agenda.

41. Ms. Anne Nuorgam (Vice-Chair) was invited to present on the topic of indigenous peoples and arctic biodiversity at the Seminar on Arctic Indigenous and Local Knowledge and Sustainability, organized by the Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science of the University of Helsinki in Finland in June 2018. Ms. Nuorgam also spoke at a seminar on indigenous cultural heritage as part of a project entitled “Culturally and socially sustainable museum. Reframing the policies of representing indigenous Sámi culture in the Sámi Museum Siida” in Inari, Finland, in August 2018.

Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the regional and national levels

42. Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues actively participate at regional and national policy and programming events to raise awareness of the rights of indigenous peoples and to advocate greater attention to and action on these rights at the country level.

43. Mr. Elifuraha Laltaika provided valuable substantive support to the Government of Namibia in connection with the Development Account project entitled “Enhancing

the capacity of governments and indigenous leaders to ensure social integration and inclusive development in selected countries in Africa and Asia”.

44. Mr. Les Malezer continued to advocate the rights of indigenous peoples at both the national and international levels, with a specific emphasis on the right to self-determination of indigenous peoples for the effective implementation of the Declaration.

45. Ms. Tibán Guala attended the First Meeting of Ibero-American High Authorities and Indigenous Peoples, held in Guatemala in April 2018. The event was organized by the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Ibero-American Action Plan for the Implementation of the Right of Indigenous Peoples⁶ and the Iximuleu Declaration⁷ were adopted by the participants. The documents were submitted as official documents to the twenty-sixth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Guatemala in November 2018.

46. At the national level in Ecuador, Ms. Tibán Guala has been working steadily to strengthen the communication between the Government and indigenous peoples. She has participated at several events regarding the criminalization of indigenous territorial rights defenders and is working to advance the ratification and adoption into national law of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The bill has been well received by the Constitutional Court, whose final report on the bill is pending in order for it to proceed for consideration at a plenary session of the National Assembly.

47. Mr. Nzoa has been directing his advocacy efforts towards the President of Cameroon to support political reforms for the establishment of a State secretariat for indigenous affairs and the inclusion of provisions recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples in national programmes. He is a strong supporter of the inclusion of indigenous communities in regulatory decision-making processes. Mr. Nzoa has been advocating the employment of indigenous youth in the public and private sectors at the national and regional levels.

48. Mr. Chaudhary participated actively at several meetings in Asia, as well as at the national level in Nepal, to increase attention and action on better incorporating the rights of indigenous peoples into national policy processes and development outcomes. For instance, Mr. Chaudhary participated at the seventieth Human Rights Day celebration on 10 December 2018, organized by the NGO Federation of Nepal in Kathmandu. He participated in a collaboration and coordination meeting with the International Fund for Agricultural Development country team and indigenous peoples' organizations (Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities and Youth Federation of Indigenous Nationalities, Nepal).

49. Mr. Dmitrii Kharakka-Zaitsev (Vice-Chair) participated at the Peace Integration Summit organized by the Global Embassy of Activists for Peace in Guatemala City in October 2018.

50. At the national level in the Russian Federation, Mr. Kharakka-Zaitsev participated at the twenty-seventh session of the Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights. The session focused on ecology and the natural environment and the implementation of indigenous peoples' rights. The topics of discussion were: preservation of the indigenous environment, revitalization and development of languages, the educational system and the situation of indigenous people with no official status. Mr. Kharakka-Zaitsev highlighted the importance of

⁶ Available at <http://www.filac.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Plandeaccion.pdf>.

⁷ Available at <http://www.filac.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/DeclaracionIximuleu.pdf>.

revitalizing indigenous languages, preserving traditional indigenous environments and protecting the legal status of indigenous peoples at a meeting in October 2018 in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation. Mr. Kharakka-Zaitsev delivered a lecture on international mechanisms for the protection of indigenous peoples' rights at the sixth edition of the Summer School on Human Rights at Ural State Law University, which focused on the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in Yekaterinburg in July 2018.

51. Ms. Terri Henry presented on the theme of indigenous communities at SOCAP18, held in October 2018, in San Francisco, United States of America. The coalition of indigenous peoples involved in SOCAP are seeking to expand indigenous values and voices in the financial sector and are in the vanguard of the emerging global impact economy, convening ideas and capital to catalyse world change.

Indigenous peoples and migration

52. Ms. Henry participated in the Task Force on Displacement Stakeholder Meeting,⁸ organized by the International Organization for Migration and the Platform on Disaster Displacement in May 2018 in Switzerland. The aim of the task force is to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change, in accordance with its mandate outlined in decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 49, adopted at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Paris in 2015.

53. Mr. Fuentes Blanco made statements during the general debate and the dialogues of the Intergovernmental Conference on the Global Compact for Migration, held in Marrakech, Morocco, in December 2018, to highlight the general need to respond to the needs of migrants who face situations of vulnerability, including indigenous peoples.

III. Developments in the General Assembly process to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them

54. The General Assembly, in its resolution [70/232](#), requested the President of the General Assembly to conduct timely, inclusive, representative and transparent consultations with Member States, indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions from all regions of the world, and existing relevant mechanisms of the United Nations, on the possible measures necessary, including procedural and institutional steps and selection criteria, to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them. It also requested the President to prepare a compilation of the views presented during the consultations, including good practices within the United Nations regarding indigenous peoples' participation, which would form the basis for a draft text to be finalized and adopted by the Assembly during its seventy-first session.

55. Pursuant to that request, on 18 February 2016, the President of the General Assembly appointed four advisers to conduct consultations: two from Member States, namely Kai Sauer, the Permanent Representative of Finland, and Martha Ama Akyaa

⁸ Available at <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/iom-pdd-task-force-displacement-stakeholder-meeting>.

Pobee, the Permanent Representative of Ghana, as well as two representatives of indigenous peoples, namely, Claire Winfield Ngamihi Charters from the Pacific region and James Anaya from the North America region.

56. On 25 July 2016, a note by the President of the General Assembly was issued (A/70/990), which contained the requested information.

57. Building on the work of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, the President of the seventy-first session, Mr. Peter Thomson, reconfirmed the appointment of the advisers to assist him with the consultation process, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/232.

58. The President of the General Assembly further consulted with Member States and indigenous peoples before initiating the intergovernmental negotiations in May 2017 that culminated in the adoption of resolution 71/321.

59. In its resolution 71/321, entitled “Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples’ representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them”, the General Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly to organize and preside over informal interactive hearings and to prepare a summary of each hearing, during its seventy-second, seventy-third and seventy-fourth sessions, on the margins of the sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, with indigenous peoples, ensuring, to the extent possible, balanced regional representation.

60. During the seventeenth session of the Permanent Forum, the informal hearing provided an opportunity for indigenous peoples to express their views and make concrete proposals to enable their participation at the United Nations.⁹

61. The President of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly will continue the process and will organize an informal interactive hearing during the eighteenth session of the Permanent Forum, in accordance with resolution 71/321.

62. The Branch has been supporting the process and will continue to do so, as part of its overall support to the presidencies of the General Assembly.

IV. International Year of Indigenous Languages

63. Since its inception, the Permanent Forum has expressed concern for threatened indigenous languages and has been formulating and advocating policies to overcome the critical situation that they face. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized two expert group meetings (see E/C.19/2008/3 and E/C.19/2016/10) in response to recommendations of the Forum. The meeting reports describe the dire situation of indigenous languages today and call upon indigenous peoples, the United Nations system and States to take action to stem further deterioration and provide support to preserve languages in danger of extinction. The Forum endorsed the recommendation emanating from the expert group meeting in 2016 for an international year to draw attention to the urgent need to protect indigenous languages. On that basis, the General Assembly, in its resolution 71/178, proclaimed 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages and invited UNESCO to serve as the United Nations lead agency for the Year.

64. A multi-stakeholder partnership for the Year was proposed as a suitable approach for the involvement of all interested parties in mobilizing the support necessary for the implementation of various initiatives associated with the Year. In

⁹ Information relating to this process is available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/unpfi-sessions-2/2017-2.html>.

that regard, a steering committee to provide guidance on the overall implementation of the action plan for organizing the Year has been established.¹⁰

65. UNESCO facilitated the development of an action plan to organize the Year (E/C.19/2018/8), through detailed and open consultations with representatives of interested Member States, indigenous peoples, United Nations entities, research specialists, civil society organizations and other public and private actors.

66. The purpose of the action plan was to lay the foundation for implementing resolution 71/178. It outlines actions and measures to be taken together by United Nations entities, Governments, indigenous peoples' organizations, broader civil society, academia, the private sector and other interested actors in order to achieve the objectives of the Year. The action plan contributes to realizing indigenous peoples' rights worldwide, as stated in the Declaration, including by engaging the United Nations system in support of Member States.

67. UNESCO launched a website dedicated to the International Year of Indigenous Languages,¹¹ which will contribute to raising awareness about the Year and about the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages around the world.

68. The official launch of the Year was held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris on 28 January and at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 1 February 2019, with the participation of Member States, indigenous peoples, the United Nations system and other partners.

69. The Forum and the Branch have been actively engaged on matters related to the Year.

70. Ms. Aysa Mukabenova represents the Forum on the steering committee for the organization of the Year. The Branch is also a member of the steering committee and, together with UNESCO, provides guidance for and monitoring of the overall implementation of the plans for the Year within the framework of the action plan, including helping with the mobilization of financial resources, supporting the establishment of initiatives by indigenous peoples and overseeing a report to the United Nations at the end of the year.

71. In addition, expert members (Ms. Xiaoan Zhang (Vice-Chair) and Ms. Mukabenova) participated at relevant meetings organized by UNESCO for the Year, including the international conference on the theme "Role of linguistic diversity in building a global community with a shared future",¹² in Changsha, China, in September 2018, organized in cooperation with the Hunan government and other partners. The Chief of Branch delivered a keynote address at the meeting.

72. Ms. Mukabenova was also involved in the preparations for the Year at the national level, in the Russian Federation. She participated in the establishment of the national organizing committee and the preparation of a national plan of action. In addition, Ms. Mukabenova has cooperated with indigenous peoples (consultations and participation at events such as the founding congress of the Association of Native Languages Teachers in 2017), academia (international conference organized by the

¹⁰ The steering committee is composed of Member States; representatives of indigenous peoples and institutions from the seven sociocultural regions; designated members of the three United Nations mechanisms (one member of the Permanent Forum, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and one member of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples); UNESCO (secretariat of the committee) and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (advisory role).

¹¹ Available at <https://en.iyil2019.org/>.

¹² Available at <https://en.unesco.org/events/international-conference-role-linguistic-diversity-building-global-community-shared-future>.

Institute of Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences on language unity and language diversity in a polyethnic State in November 2018) and the private sector (conference organized by the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs on “Business and human rights” in December 2018) to disseminate information on the major objectives of the Year and on indigenous issues in general. Ms. Mukavenova was involved in the preparation and organization of intersessional meetings for the Permanent Forum in 2015 and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2017, held in the Russian Federation.

V. Indigenous women

73. The Permanent Forum has played a key role in elevating the topic of the situation of indigenous women and making recommendations thereon. First, by positioning the demands of indigenous women as a priority and advocating, through its recommendations, the inclusion of their perspectives in major intergovernmental frameworks. Second, by providing a space to share experiences and difficulties and exchange proposals and strategies to achieve goals. Third, by providing the institutional venue to establish networks with non-governmental organizations and United Nations entities to respond to some of the challenges faced by indigenous women around the world.

74. Indigenous women now participate at the annual sessions of the Permanent Forum in great numbers and have their own caucus with a strong voice. An important set of recommendations on indigenous women has been adopted by the Forum.¹³

75. In addition, there is a specific web page on gender and indigenous women managed by the Branch, as part of its outreach and information-raising activities. The web page contains information on indigenous women in intergovernmental processes such the Permanent Forum and the Commission on the Status of Women (both subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council), relevant recommendations, publications, reports and videos.¹⁴

76. There has been steady progress in the achievements made by indigenous women at the national and international levels. The Commission on the Status of Women has also increasingly included the voices and concerns of indigenous women. In that context, the Branch prepared an overview of the achievements of indigenous women since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, entitled “Twenty-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and beyond: a framework to advance indigenous women’s issues” (E/C.19/2015/2). The report highlights relevant activities included in the national review reports of Member States for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission of the Status of Women in 2015.

77. At its forty-ninth session, in 2005, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted resolution 49/7 entitled “Indigenous women: beyond the ten-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action” (E/2005/27-E/CN.6/2005/11, p. 23) and, at its fifty-sixth session, in 2012, it adopted resolution 56/4 entitled “Indigenous women: key actors in poverty and hunger eradication” (E/2012/27-E/CN.6/2012/16, p. 22).

78. In 2013, at its fifty-seventh session, the Commission on the Status of Women focused on the priority theme “Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence

¹³ Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/mandated-areas1/indigenous-women/recommendations-of-the-permanent-forum-related-to-indigenous-women.html>.

¹⁴ Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/mandated-areas1/indigenous-women.html>.

against women and girls” and adopted a set of agreed conclusions and recommendations that make references to indigenous women (see [E/2013/27-E/CN.6/2013/11](#)).

79. In 2017, during the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, an interactive dialogue was held on the focus area “Empowerment of indigenous women”, with presentations and statements reflected in a Chair’s summary ([E/CN.6/2017/12](#)). It was the first time that indigenous women had been discussed as a stand-alone topic at an official meeting of the Commission. The Chair of the Commission, Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, made an introductory statement and moderated the dialogue. Ministers and high-level officials from 14 Member States, nine invited indigenous speakers and eight representatives from non-governmental organizations and the United Nations system contributed to the dialogue. This milestone came about owing to close cooperation between indigenous women’s organizations, the Permanent Forum and the Branch and, in particular, to the strong commitment of the Bureau of the Commission.

VI. Country-level implementation

80. The General Assembly, in its resolution [61/295](#) of 13 September 2007, adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration calls upon States to take appropriate measures for its implementation, including the development of legislation, policies and programmes that take into account the priorities and perspectives of indigenous peoples.

81. In the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the General Assembly requested the development of a system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the Declaration (General Assembly resolution [69/2](#)). Under the leadership of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, with support from the Branch, the system-wide action plan was prepared by the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples’ Issues. The action plan was developed on the basis of consultations with indigenous peoples, Member States and entities of the United Nations system and was launched by the Secretary-General at the opening of the fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum, held in New York from 9 to 20 May 2016. It provides the framework for support from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for country-level initiatives to achieve the ends of the Declaration. An additional impetus is the ongoing development system reform, which places greater emphasis on country-level engagement and support.

Technical cooperation

82. The Branch and the Capacity Development and Partnerships Coordination Section carried out a capacity-building project in four countries: three in the Africa region (Kenya, Namibia and Uganda) and one in the Asia region (Cambodia).¹⁵ The project was entitled “Enhancing the capacity of governments and indigenous leaders to ensure social integration and inclusive development in selected countries in Africa and Asia”. The overall objective of the project was to enhance social integration and inclusive development for indigenous peoples in national programmes and policies based on the Declaration. It aimed to enhance the capacity of local and national government officials and indigenous leaders to participate in consensus-building, participatory and constructive dialogue and development planning and to improve their capacity to contribute to the development of policies, legal frameworks and

¹⁵ Information on the project is available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/capacity-development/projects/project/social-integration-and-inclusive-development-indigenous-leaders/>.

administrative programmes that would ensure the social integration and inclusive development of indigenous peoples.

83. The project was implemented from 2016 to 2018, laying a strong basis for further, similar normative policy work on indigenous peoples in the countries of implementation. The project succeeded in bringing together key rights-holders and duty-bearers to discuss and agree on further policy and consensus-building processes, a key achievement under circumstances in which such structures and mechanisms were weak or non-existent. High-level policy or legislative products and mechanisms have been developed that provide a solid basis for policy action towards the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. A follow-up project has received initial approval and will be prepared under the United Nations Development Account.

Provision of support to United Nations country offices

84. The Declaration and the system-wide action plan on the rights of indigenous peoples provide a framework for the support provided by United Nations country teams to Member States on indigenous issues. To support the implementation of the Declaration, in 2008, the United Nations Development Group adopted specific guidelines to assist the United Nations system in mainstreaming indigenous peoples' issues into their operational activities and programmes at the country level.¹⁶ In addition to the Declaration, the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization provides the normative standard in those countries where it is ratified. The outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples provides further guidance.

85. In paragraph 32 of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in addition to resident coordinators, were invited to support the implementation of national action plans, strategies or other measures to achieve the ends of the Declaration, in accordance with national priorities and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.

86. The Permanent Forum, at its sixteenth session, encouraged resident coordinators and United Nations country teams to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, including indigenous women and youth, in the preparation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and country programme action plans.

87. In order to promote the rights of indigenous peoples at the country level and to support the efforts of United Nations country teams, the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous People's Issues has organized its last two annual meetings, in Ecuador (2017) and Colombia (2018), in close cooperation with the resident coordinators' offices and with the active participation of the United Nations country team and of the focal points at United Nations Headquarters. Furthermore, the implementation of the Development Account project referred to above (see para. 82) was carried out in close cooperation with relevant United Nations country teams. Of particular note was the cooperation between the Division for Inclusive Social Development and the United Nations country team in Namibia. Indeed, the Division continues to support the country team in Namibia on matters related to the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples.

88. That cooperation is ongoing in the context of the system-wide action plan on the rights of indigenous peoples and the 2030 Agenda, which provides the policy and

¹⁶ Available at <https://undg.org/document/the-united-nations-development-groups-guidelines-on-indigenous-peoples-issues/>.

operational framework for greater incorporation of the rights and priorities of indigenous peoples into national development policies and programmes to meet the commitment of leaving no one behind.

VII. Awareness-raising, information and analytical reports

89. The Branch is actively engaged in raising awareness on the rights of indigenous peoples, including the activities of the Permanent Forum and the United Nations system. To this end, the Branch manages a website on indigenous peoples (see www.un.org/indigenous), as well as other social media platforms. In addition, it facilitates indigenous voices at high-level events such as the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the annual sessions of the Forum and other relevant meetings.

Indigenous media zone

90. During two consecutive annual sessions of the Permanent Forum, in 2016 and 2017, the “Indigenous media zone” was organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in cooperation with the Department of Global Communications and indigenous media groups. It aimed to provide a space for indigenous and mainstream media channels and platforms to cover the issues discussed during the sessions in their own languages and through their own media channels.

91. The “Indigenous media zone” provides a working and interactive space equipped with Internet access, work stations and a live stream of the events happening at the United Nations during the annual sessions of the Permanent Forum. The programme in the media zone includes: live webcast interviews, press conferences and discussions with indigenous elders, human rights defenders, delegates and celebrities. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs also broadcast some of the panel discussions live from the media zone.

State of the World’s Indigenous Peoples

92. The Permanent Forum, at its first session in 2002, requested the United Nations to produce a regular report on the state of the world’s indigenous peoples. The aim of the report is to be a key advocacy tool for raising awareness on indigenous peoples’ issues in general and, in particular, to raise the profile of the Permanent Forum. In addition, the report is of value for deliberations within the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and other bodies of the United Nations system.

93. The first edition of *State of the World’s Indigenous Peoples* was published in 2009 and addressed: poverty and well-being; culture; environment; contemporary education; health; human rights and emerging issues. After the introductory volume of the publication, which included all six thematic areas of the Forum’s mandate, subsequent volumes focused on specific thematic areas to give a more in-depth analysis, with different chapters analysing specific regional situations. The theme of the second volume was indigenous peoples’ access to health services, the third focused on education and the fourth analysed the progress made in the 10 years following the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.¹⁷

¹⁷ The publications are available at: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/publications/state-of-the-worlds-indigenous-peoples.html>.