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9 – 13 April 2017

Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Permanent Forum on  
Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)



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Conference B

# United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

## Committee Staff

<b>Director</b>	Chase Mitchell
<b>Chair</b>	Rebekka Sauer

## Agenda

- I. Sustainable Tourism and the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- II. Global Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- III. Development of the Arctic: Preserving Indigenous Rights

## Resolutions adopted by the Committee

<b>Code</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Vote</b>
UNPFII/1/1	Sustainable Tourism and the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples	Adopted without a vote
UNPFII/2/1	Global Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	6 votes in favor, 3 votes against, 1 abstention

# Summary Report

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Global Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- II. Sustainable Tourism and the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- III. Development of the Arctic: Preserving Indigenous Rights

The session was attended by representatives of 12 Member States and 1 non-governmental organization. On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of II, I, III and began discussion on the topic of “Sustainable Tourism and Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples.” Delegates deliberated about different approaches to sustainable tourism, discussing the role of the private sector, how to educate tourists, and policies that could protect indigenous lands. By Monday, the Dais had received an initial proposal that aimed to holistically address the economic, social, and political aspects of sustainable tourism and its impact on indigenous communities.

The committee worked to revise and debate the proposal and on Wednesday the proposal was approved as a draft resolution by the Secretariat. The draft resolution called for a regular side event to be established at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, called for Member States to develop educational materials for tourists, and addressed a range of other issues. The resolution had no amendments and was adopted with unanimous support from the body.

Discussions then began on the topic of “Global Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.” Although discussions on many aspects of the topic were contentious, two proposals were submitted to the Secretariat and approved as draft resolutions. The draft resolutions addressed issues of traditional medicine and methods of protecting the rights of indigenous peoples. The forum adopted one of the proposals by simple majority vote.



**Code:** UNPFII/1/1

**Committee:** United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

**Topic:** Sustainable Tourism and the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples

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1 *The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues,*

2  
3 *Guided by the principles set forth in the 1945 Charter of the United Nations, specifically Article 1, which focuses on*  
4 *international coordination and cooperation in addressing global issues such as poverty and other inequalities, and*  
5 *Article 2.4, which emphasizes that Member States cannot intervene in the domestic affairs of other Member States,*  
6 *and Article 2.7, which establishes the principle of non-intervention by the United Nations (UN) in the domestic*  
7 *affairs of Member States,*

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9 *Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/20, which authorizes the United Nations Permanent Forum*  
10 *on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) to address the specific needs of indigenous peoples,*

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12 *Commending action taken on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) and the Sustainable*  
13 *Development Goals (SDGs), which are important to consider when addressing issues surrounding sustainable*  
14 *practices,*

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16 *Keeping in mind articles 8.2 and 11 of the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*  
17 *(UNDRIP), which highlight the need for Member States to address the right of indigenous peoples to practice,*  
18 *maintain, and protect their cultural traditions, which includes that of their indigenous populations,*

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20 *Recognizing the level of poverty faced by indigenous people around the world and the importance of sustainable*  
21 *tourism as an instrument to eradicate poverty and protect the entirety of indigenous communities' rights as stated in*  
22 *General Assembly resolution 69/233 of 2015, which further suggests that Member States collaborate with non-*  
23 *governmental organizations (NGOs) such as the Western Australian Aboriginal Tourism Operators,*

24  
25 *Taking into account the designation of 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development,*  
26 *which emphasizes awareness for tourism that supports the heritage and rights of various indigenous communities,*

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28 *Expressing its appreciation for the work done so far by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural*  
29 *Organization (UNESCO) and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) towards creating sustainable tourism*  
30 *models such as through UNESCO's World Heritage Site initiative and its extensive training and educational*  
31 *programs, and UNWTO's Measuring Sustainable Tourism initiative and International Network of Sustainable*  
32 *Tourism Observatories,*

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34 *Recognizing the 1989 Hague Declaration on Tourism as a defining document for promoting education of tourists in*  
35 *order to understand the importance of preserving cultural and natural heritage of indigenous peoples and the 1999*  
36 *Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (GCET) and domestic documents implementing corporate social responsibility*  
37 *(CSR) as important frameworks for mitigating negative impacts of tourism on indigenous populations,*

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39 *Bearing in mind the United Nations Environment Programme's definition of sustainable tourism as tourism that*  
40 *takes full account of its current and potential economic, social, and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of*  
41 *visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities, as specified in the 2005 report Making Tourism More*  
42 *Sustainable: A Guide for Policy Makers,*

43  
44 *Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/240 of 2017 and its affirmation of sustainable tourism as an important*  
45 *catalyst of economic growth and job creation for all regardless of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion*  
46 *or economic or other status, including indigenous peoples,*

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48 *Recognizing the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and the World Conference of*  
49 *Indigenous Peoples as the leading global conferences in education on indigenous and global sustainable issues,*

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*Mindful* of international indigenous coalitions that provide representation for indigenous populations throughout the world,

*Noting* the enactment of follow-up and review sessions of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* on the global scale, as committed to in General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 2015,

1. *Invites* Member States, NGOs, private enterprises with a stake in the sustainable tourism industry, and indigenous peoples to work cooperatively to the best of each Member State’s ability towards designing a domestic framework that focuses on creating, implementing, and supporting current and potential sustainable indigenous tourism models, as well as creating frameworks that are modeled to:
  - a. Identify current and potential indigenous tourism sites;
  - b. Assess indigenous communities’ desire to engage in the tourism industry;
  - c. Identify the inhibitors and challenges of indigenous communities’ participation;
  - d. Evaluate the feasibility and ability for the Member States to support the participation of indigenous communities;
2. *Encourages* Member States, NGOs, other private enterprises with a stake in the sustainable tourism industry, and indigenous peoples during the creation of frameworks to compile reports detailing the operations of tourism activities in order to ensure that they are supportive of sustainable practices and are being implemented responsibly;
3. *Recommends* that UNESCO and UNWTO continue to work with Member States who request financial aid or assistance from the existing subsidiary programs within these UN bodies to create and implement their sustainable tourism frameworks;
4. *Suggests* consultation with indigenous peoples to create resources that educate tourists regarding sustainable tourism in regions inhabited by indigenous groups, including by Member States:
  - a. Encouraging internal tourism bureaus to provide literature with guidelines for travel that is both culturally sensitive and environmentally responsible;
  - b. Sharing these educational resources through various means such as, tactile, electronic, and social media campaigns, or visual means;
  - c. Reviewing and disseminating the educational materials provided by the local indigenous communities to tourists upon arrival;
  - d. Sharing educational materials to provide visitors with a richer cultural experience;
  - e. Creating and distributing this educational literature regarding responsible travel practices with the explicit approval of the indigenous populations that inhabit the regions in question, unless they express a desire to be exempt from this conversation;
5. *Recommends* that Member States examine and seek to mimic the best practices of relevant NGOs’ sustainable tourism policies by:
  - a. Providing indigenous peoples inclusivity in participating at regional and global levels while still maintaining and valuing their cultural heritage as well as their cultural, social, and environmental rights;

- 105           b. Communicating advice and information on creating a dynamic and sustainable tourism industry  
106 practices that take into account indigenous cultural heritage as well as their cultural, social, and  
107 environmental rights;  
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- 109           c. Highlighting the importance of tourism enterprises operated by indigenous communities so that they  
110 can better participate in the travel and tourism economy in order to create a new balance between  
111 indigenous-led and private tourism enterprises;  
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- 113 6. *Further recommends* that the General Assembly expand the annual HLPF to include the topic of sustainable  
114 tourism, as it pertains to indigenous peoples and their rights, as a regularly recurring side event, with the goals  
115 of:  
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- 117           a. Inviting representatives and experts from relevant UN bodies, indigenous representative organizations  
118 that are recognized by the UN, concerned Member States, and private companies involved in the  
119 sustainable indigenous tourism industry to enter the dialogue of the side event;  
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- 121           b. Providing a platform for indigenous representatives to communicate their concerns, share best  
122 practices, and engage stakeholders in a dialogue on the social, economic, and political challenges of  
123 sustainable indigenous tourism;  
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- 125           c. Allowing private enterprises to network with Member States and indigenous groups and to provide  
126 their unique perspective on mechanisms of indigenous representation in the sustainable tourism sector;  
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- 128           d. Producing a report compiled by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, to be  
129 submitted to the UNPFII to aid in informing its future actions, and be published for review by the  
130 public, whether they belong to indigenous groups or not, about the conclusions reached;  
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- 132 7. *Invites* indigenous representative organizations that are recognized by the UN in need of financial assistance, in  
133 order to participate in this side event, to apply for such funding from the United Nations Voluntary Fund for  
134 Indigenous Peoples;  
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- 136 8. *Encourages* indigenous representative organizations that are recognized by the UN to include members of local  
137 indigenous communities in the discussion and decision-making process regarding the implications of the  
138 sustainable tourism industry, whether they are directly or indirectly affiliated with these NGOs, by:  
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- 140           a. Communicating with local indigenous peoples to identify possible representatives for each willing  
141 indigenous community that will work directly with said NGOs to facilitate these conversations;  
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- 143           b. Providing representation for all desiring indigenous peoples;  
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- 145           c. Facilitating the attendance of local indigenous leaders at events, such as but not limited to, relevant  
146 HLPF side events;  
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- 148 9. *Calls* for the inclusion of willing indigenous communities in existing UN initiatives and projects, such as, but  
149 not limited to:  
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- 151           a. UNESCO's World Heritage Committee;  
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- 153           b. The UNWTO's Measuring Sustainable Tourism Initiative;  
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- 155           c. The UNWTO's International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories;  
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- 157           d. Sustainable tourism educational and training programs carried out by UNESCO, UNWTO, and others;  
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- 159 10. *Suggests* that Member States compile lists of private companies based within their borders which have signed  
160 the GCET or domestic documents implementing CSR and publishing them on a platform accessible to

161 indigenous communities that will aid in facilitating relationships between Member States, indigenous  
162 communities, and signatory companies.



**Code:** UNPFII/2/1

**Committee:** United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

**Topic:** Global Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

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1 *The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues,*

2  
3 *Guided by the principles outlined in the 1945 Charter of the United Nations and the 2007 United Nations*  
4 *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP),*

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6 *Further guided by the International Labour Organization's Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No.*  
7 *169), which serves as a blueprint for protecting and realizing the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples,*

8  
9 *Recognizing the work of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as the leading United Nations (UN)*  
10 *funding program in assisting Member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,*

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12 *Condemning the pervasive violence against women and girls in all its forms and manifestations, noting the higher*  
13 *potential of indigenous women and girls being at risk, calling for increasing the effort towards prevention in General*  
14 *Assembly resolution 67/144 of 2013,*

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16 *Further recognizing the lack of information on indigenous rights of indigenous communities that do not have access*  
17 *to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that creates a level of inequalities among populations of Member States,*  
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19 1. *Recommends* that individual Member States expand the capabilities of domestic human rights organizations by  
20 opening mobile regional offices in areas where indigenous communities do not have access to such  
21 organizations so that indigenous peoples residing in this area may:

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23 a. Gain access to materials and information educating them on their rights talked about in the policies of  
24 their individual Member State and UNDRIP;

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26 b. Provide an outlet for indigenous peoples to report instances where they feel they have experienced a  
27 violation of their rights;

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29 c. Facilitate job training and placement services at the discretion of indigenous peoples;

30  
31 2. *Suggests* higher levels of funding for expanding domestic human rights organizations, to be subsidized by  
32 voluntary contributions from NGOs and relevant UN bodies, including UNDP;

33  
34 3. *Further suggests* the development of an international guidebook for consultation with indigenous communities  
35 to be utilized by UN bodies, NGOs, and Member States, should they wish, that specifically includes:

36  
37 a. A framework for identifying possible projects, initiatives, or issues that could benefit from the  
38 inclusion of indigenous communities through consultation, including how to:

39  
40 i. Include indigenous communities as stakeholders within the projects, initiatives, or issue;

41 ii. Plan and possibly extend the span of a project, initiative, or issue;

42 iii. Anticipate the possible extent of the impact of project, initiative, or issue;

43 iv. Know and anticipate response of indigenous communities;

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45 b. Advice on advertising, organizing, and facilitating consultation with indigenous communities;

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47 4. *Invites* Member States to create rights indicators specific to each indigenous community's needs;

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49 5. *Expresses its hope* that Member States create relocation programs modeled after Safe Horizon, which allows  
50 marginalized indigenous women to remove themselves from being victims of violent crimes by providing aid,  
51 advocacy and support to victims who have experienced domestic violence and abuse, with financial support  
52 from the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.