

# Documentation of the Work of the Human Rights Council NMUN Simulation\*



## National Model United Nations Canada

23 – 29 November 2025

### Human Rights Council (HRC)

#### Committee Staff

<b>Director</b>	Kaylyn B. Atkins
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Kaia Goodhope

#### Agenda

1. UNDRIP and the Participation of Indigenous Populations in Governance
2. The Rights of Indigenous Populations to Their Traditional Economies

#### Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote (For-Against-Abstain)
<b>HRC/1/1</b>	Education and Increased Financing	Adopted by consensus
<b>HRC/1/2</b>	EMRIP, Education, and Funding	Adopted by consensus
<b>HRC/1/3</b>	Education and FPIC	Adopted by consensus
<b>HRC/1/4</b>	Inclusivity, Accessibility, and Education	Adopted by consensus
<b>HRC/1/5</b>	Legislative Structures of Indigenous Governance	Adopted by consensus
<b>HRC/1/6</b>	Regional Autonomy and Indigenous Self-Governance	Adopted by consensus

*\* National Model United Nations (nmun.org) organizes simulations of the UN. The resolutions in this document were the work of dedicated college and university students attending our conference. They are not official UN documents, and their contents are not the actual work of the UN entity simulated.*

## Summary Report

The Human Rights Council (HRC) held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

1. The Rights of Indigenous Populations to Their Traditional Economies
2. UNDRIP and the Participation of Indigenous Populations in Governance

The session was attended by representatives of 25 Member States and 0 Observers.

On Wednesday morning, the committee adopted the agenda of II, I, beginning a discussion on the topic of “UNDRIP and the Participation of Indigenous Populations in Governance.” By Wednesday afternoon, the Dais had received a total of 5 proposals covering a wide range of subtopics, such as Education, FPIC, and Increased Financing; to Regional Autonomy and Indigenous Governance; EMRIP, and Self-Determination. The tone of the committee was engaging, relatively diplomatic, and productive. Delegates stayed on topic and diligently worked to produce quality working papers.

On Friday morning, 6 draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, one of which had two friendly amendments. The committee adopted 6 resolutions following voting procedure, all of which were adopted by consensus. The resolutions covered a wide array of issues, such as: Education and FPIC; Education, Increased Financing, Regional Autonomy and Indigenous Self-Governance; Inclusivity, Accessibility, and Education, EMRIP, Education, and Funding; and Legislative Structures of Indigenous Knowledge. After the debate closed on Topic I, the committee did not have enough time to discuss Topic II due to time constraints.



**Code:** HRC/1/1

**Committee:** Human Rights Council

**Topic:** UNDRIP and the Participation of Indigenous Populations in Governance

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*The Human Rights Council,*

*Acknowledging* the Human Rights Council's (HRC) mandate to promote, protect, and address human rights issues at a global level,

*Taking into consideration* the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948) and its application to all, including Indigenous Peoples and ethnic minorities,

*Aware of* the imbalance of unity and diversity throughout Member States in the international community,

*Bearing in mind* the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and its implications on governance for Indigenous Peoples, such as issues related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 13 (Climate Action),

*Having devoted attention to* the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) Article 31 on the rights of Indigenous Peoples to control, protect, and develop their cultural heritage and traditional knowledge,

*Recognizing* the importance of Article 27 of UNDRIP with its aspects on the characteristics of Indigenous identities, promoting initiatives concerned with the recognition and preservation of the characteristics, languages, and cultural practices of Indigenous Peoples,

*Encourages* deeper cooperation between the HRC, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), and the Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG),

*Reaffirming* UNPFII mandates on the rights of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination, acknowledging the efforts made in pursuit of equality and recognition,

*Mindful of* *Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169* (1989), which requires that all signatories implement initiatives that will develop Indigenous institutions in a way that respects their way of life,

*Welcoming* the yearly continuation of the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples that was initially suggested under General Assembly resolution 65/198 (2010), sharing perspectives and initiatives on how to promote Indigenous rights and achieve the goals of UNDRIP,

*Viewing with appreciation* articles 8, 9, and 81 of the *Vienna Declaration and Program of Action* (1993), which support building strong, trustworthy, and inclusive democratic institutions, as well as encouraging Member States to ensure a wide human rights education and dissemination of public information for all, especially women,

*Noting further* the needs of all ethnic minorities throughout their various regions to further support them in local and regional autonomous areas,

*Affirming* UNDRIP Article 6, which guarantees the right of each Indigenous person to a nationality, and therefore the right to full and unabridged participation in civic institutions,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 79/170 (2014), which acknowledges the failure of Member States and the international community to uplift Indigenous Peoples and to address sociopolitical

issues - such as lack of access to civic engagement opportunities and distance to centers of governance - acting as barriers to Indigenous governance,

*Noting also* General Assembly resolution 52/108 (2006), which encourages consultations between Indigenous Peoples and government to create plans, policies, and programs that recognize Indigenous autonomy,

*Stressing the desire* to include Indigenous perspectives and input in multi-level governance processes,

*Noting the importance* of protecting Indigenous land rights through international frameworks, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) as well as the UNDRIP and existing frameworks on Indigenous and vulnerable populations in governance,

*Emphasizing* the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples as a resource to assist local Indigenous People with projects related to self-determination and self-governance as well as a possible alternative funding window,

*Further recognising* the importance of the tourism sector within Member States in supporting Indigenous Peoples economically and spreading awareness about their culture, historical significance, and sustainability,

*Keeping in mind* that UDHR Article 26 calls for education to promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups,

*Emphasizing* UNDRIP Article 26 on land governance and the importance of land preservation in creating accessible governance for all Indigenous Peoples,

*Expressing its hope* that Member States will support culturally responsible bilingual public education initiatives in order to enable Indigenous civic participation without erasing heritage, in line with the principles described in the UN Economic and Social Council (UNESCO)'s 2025 report *Languages matter: global guidance on multilingual education* and the SDGs it supports, such as 4, 8, 16,

*Keeping in mind* the work of bodies like UN Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in developing countries (UN-REDD) and REDD+, which are essential to ensuring land stewardship for all - especially in regards to Indigenous Peoples and their ancestral regions,

*Further acknowledging* the work of the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) to support communities, on a regional and national scale, create community-based ownership of their lands while emphasizing the importance of community stewardship,

1. *Strongly recommends* the documentation and reporting of education and representation metrics under Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) and verified through the UNPFII to provide Indigenous Peoples with the evidence to assert their right to self-determination and build the capacity necessary for effective, culturally-relevant governance, in the pursuit of strengthening leadership development and communication between the state, its Indigenous Peoples and other minority groups;
2. *Encourages* the expansion of the International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs' (IWGIA) leadership programme, which provides leadership, advocacy, and community development training, within consenting Member States and to the end of UNDRIP's (Article 5) goal of bridging the gap between Indigenous community leaders, and the broader political sphere;
3. *Appreciates* the work of the EMRIP on holding regular meetings and briefings within the HRC to ensure adherence to the UNDRIP which can be achieved within the HRC-mandated Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples (SRIP):
  - a. Article 2 (a) and 2 (b) from the mandate of SRIP which examine the ways of overcoming existing obstacles and gathering and exchanging information from all

sources should be primarily promoted to ensure effective understanding of the challenges of Indigenous Peoples;

- b. Member States if they are so willing to should participate regularly in the annual sessions of UNPFII and of EMRIP as advocated in Article 2 (e) of the SRIP due to the importance of regular monitoring of the progress made on Indigenous rights and the importance of ensuring that they hold a continuous voice in decision-making;
4. *Affirms* the continuation of the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples as a yearly conference focusing on the progress made in ensuring Indigenous access to their rights, and a monitoring of the progress made towards the goals of UNDRIP:
  - a. Welcomes funding from participatory Member States alongside the help of the original funder of the conference, the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples which received funds from governments, NGOs and other private or public entities;
  - b. Welcomes ideas that work towards creating a joint committee of Indigenous Peoples and federal governments that analyze the effectiveness of initiatives working towards the different articles of UNDRIP:
    - i. This committee can be assisted by the work of organisations such as the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA);
    - ii. Including the area of land organisation and ownership, ensuring effective joint management of Indigenous lands to create effective access to their traditional economies;
  - c. Use the advice of the conference to create a framework that educational institutions may be guided by, if they are willing to, document the work done towards achieving the goals of UNDRIP:
    - i. Considering for example Article 2 of UNDRIP, it can be used by educational institutions to understand incidents and forms of indigenous discrimination or how the initiatives they are applying educate on Indigenous identities and prevent discrimination;
5. *Calls upon* all Member States, in close cooperation and partnership with Indigenous Peoples, to establish and strengthen culturally appropriate training centres aimed in enhancing Indigenous participation in business development, with a particular focus on sustainable resource management, community-driven trade initiatives, land stewardship and the advancement of traditional economic practices;
6. *Supports* efforts of Member States, in accordance with Articles 15, 20, 21, 30 of the UNDRIP, and in a full partnership with Indigenous Peoples, to develop inclusive and culturally respectful digital marketplace that expand equitable trade opportunities and economic cooperation in the context of increasing representation Indigenous nations in the governance and enhance the visibility of commercialization regarding traditional Indigenous goods and knowledge;
7. *Strongly recommends* the establishment of regional forums under the mandate of the HRC, joined by the UNPFII, and advised by experts granted through Special Procedures, comprised of Indigenous and community leaders with the goal of:
  - a. Implementing these councils with FPIC frameworks in mind;

- b. Providing developmental aid to these regions and their Indigenous Peoples through existing HRC resources and requesting the use of UNDP resources that will allow for Indigenous populations to upkeep their land sustainably and across generations;
  - c. Fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for the diverse needs of Indigenous communities across different regions, and empowering the international community with the knowledge and resources to walk alongside them in addressing these challenges;
- 8. *Supports* collaboration between Member States and Indigenous Peoples to organise more events in UNPFII of Indigenous best practices that:
  - a. Raises awareness of the UNPFII forum where Member States can learn from the wisdom of Indigenous knowledge-keepers in subsistence, cultural, and language practices;
  - b. Invites submissions from inter-agency bodies, Member States, and local Indigenous elders and community representatives;
  - c. Is updated every 2 years to ensure up-to-date reflections of Indigenous insights;
  - d. Invites Member States to actively review and adopt successful, proven methods of Indigenous governance from various international contexts into their own national laws and practices. The goal is to improve the effective implementation and ensure the success of policies that recognise and support the self-determination and autonomous governance structures of Indigenous Peoples within their borders;
- 9. *Draws attention to* the diversity of ethnic minorities present in the international community and willing Member States to take into account the needs of all ethnic minorities, including, but not limited to, the development and learning of their written and spoken languages and their respective cultures, as well as the local autonomous regions assigned to these given areas with ethnic minorities to further deliberate what is needed for their communities;
- 10. *Further notes* the importance of social and economic rights for ethnic minorities and encourages further implementation in various legislations from willing Member States including, but not limited to, social assistance in a timely manner regarding medical assistance, disaster relief, low-income households, and educational reliefs;
- 11. *Considers* the support for Indigenous communities to use their self-determination including autonomy to prioritize and manage projects based on their own perspectives, and significant funds regarding The World Bank, including the following mechanisms:
  - a. Dedicated Grant Mechanism, such as the Climate Investment Funds' (CIF) Forest Investment Program (FIP), which provides funding to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) for sustainable forest management;
  - b. Indigenous Peoples of Asia Solidarity which was initially created with the assistance of the Nusantra Fund providing grants across Asia to further focus on inclusivity and giving ethnic minorities more power over their own decisions regarding projects being implemented;
- 12. *Strongly suggests* the enactment of Special Procedures through the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) that would establish working groups in consenting Member States to provide recommendations for how domestic policy can be better tailored to support the needs of all people, including Indigenous Peoples, and to regionally investigate:

- a. Difficulties in meeting essential UNDRIP standards, such as the right to self-governance;
  - b. Physical barriers keeping Indigenous Peoples from accessing polling locations or locations necessary to civic engagement, such as city halls and community centers;
  - c. Circumstances preventing Indigenous populations from attending university, completing college-level courses, or applying to such opportunities, including economic and sociopolitical factors;
  - d. Aggravating circumstances that disproportionately impact women and minorities with a special emphasis on Indigenous populations and ethnic minorities;
13. *Welcomes* increased international financial commitments to Indigenous Peoples and local communities for nature conservation, climate adaptation, and forest protection by:
- a. Inviting donor states to consider aligning relevant funding in accordance with UNDRIP as well as FPIC;
  - b. Calling for the expansion of dedicated funding windows within existing multilateral funds to channel resources directly to Indigenous led organizations/communities, support legal recognition, and finance Indigenous climate adaptation;
  - c. Suggesting the establishment of visible and optional monitoring systems to ensure that Indigenous Peoples are being included in dialogue concerning their FPIC as well as to track overall finances reaching communities and working to improve them;
14. *Advocates for* the creation of an international Indigenous knowledge database with the aim of assisting global communities in understanding the diverse range of challenges Indigenous Peoples face and also increasing awareness:
- a. To encourage Member State multilateralism to build an online knowledge bank for Indigenous individuals and groups across the globe, to help them discover efficient ways of dealing with challenges, enhancing their quality of life:
    - i. Which would be jointly led with Indigenous populations so that the challenges we are remedying are the challenges that Indigenous Peoples make known to us;
  - b. Inviting educational institutes across the globe to utilise this resource to inform and educate students:
    - i. Aims to revive fading Indigenous cultures and language through funding for teacher training to incorporate this into curricula;
    - ii. Aims to instill in the youth, principles of respect for diversity and culture of peace, as per the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*;
15. *Further invites* Member States to participate in UN forums and databases that address the protection of Indigenous land rights such as the UN Statistics Division or the EMRIP:
- a. Welcoming the contributions of Member States to databases and the works of governmental organisations such as the ILO Convention No. 169, which draws attention to the ILO's protected areas, ensures conservation and respect for Indigenous lands, and welcomes the participation of other Member States with similar issues being faced;

- b. Inviting Member States to continue to monitor and further develop existing frameworks, such as the FPIC framework by promoting through the General Assembly resolution 61/295's (2007) Article 10 focus on the prevention of forced relocation from Indigenous lands and the promotion of consent;
- 16. *Further urges* Member States to implement action plans based on the minimum requirements laid out in UNDRIP focusing on Indigenous involvement in the tourism sector and promoting them economically by:
  - a. Including concrete commitments to Indigenous involvement in education curation, programming, and staffing within the sector;
  - b. Providing technical and financial resources to Indigenous communities with stewardship over land frequently visited by tourists through the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples to:
    - i. Allow Indigenous People to focus their lessons on teaching visitors about their land and culture rather than entertainment;
    - ii. Economically support Indigenous Peoples taking part in the tourist sector;
- 17. *Welcomes* the creation of multilingual public education programs, to be carried out by Member States in their mainstream public education systems, aimed at both preserving Indigenous languages and preparing Indigenous groups to engage in civic institutions, founded on context from UNESCO's 2025 report *Languages matter: global guidance on multilingual education* such as:
  - a. Mother tongue-based multilingual education (MTB-MLE) for ethnic minority languages, in order to improve academic outcomes, especially for women and girls;
  - b. Multilingual education for endangered languages, meant to help Indigenous youth who have lost their heritage language regain and preserve Indigenous languages as well as strengthen their general language skills;
- 18. *Requests* United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) to ask the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) to develop guidelines for integrating traditional ecological knowledge into resource managing and respect the natural resources that should be cherished with the Indigenous People;
- 19. *Expands* on the international framework of PEFC to be further integrated into UN protocols and frameworks, such as REDD+, in order to:
  - a. Create a more developed, UN-backed framework that will assist in developing resources for community ownership through third-party verification, which would ensure that Member States partnered with PEFC are held accountable to the tenants of UNDRIP and to verify progress towards REDD+'s goals keep the needs of Indigenous Peoples in mind;
  - b. Emphasize critical issues outlined in SDG 13 (Climate Action) to ensure that progress - as measured by existing Measuring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) procedure - is made towards the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on an international level;
  - c. Recognize the overlap between humanitarian and climate issues being faced by Indigenous communities to the end of further promoting UNDRIP-conscious policies at all levels of governance;



20. *Suggests* the further coordination of UNREDD+ with Indigenous communities to achieve land stewardship and pursue economic opportunity by providing relevant resources to:

- a. Review forestry laws and create greater inclusion in environmental governance, with an emphasis on recognising Indigenous stewardship rather than criminalising traditional practices;
- b. Increase access to resources, such as access to market-based tools, materials required to execute ancestral farming practices, for subsistence farming, which serves as a method of livelihood for Indigenous communities globally;
- c. Increase access to building materials, grants, and avenues to completing required paperwork to assist in completing construction projects necessary to empowering Indigenous communities;
- d. Pursue legally binding natural resource protection for ancestral lands, resources, and any other unprotected areas that are essential to the livelihood of Indigenous Peoples.



**Code:** HRC/1/2

**Committee:** Human Rights Council

**Topic:** UNDRIP and the Participation of Indigenous Populations in Governance

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*The Human Rights Council,*

*Reaffirming* the mandate of the Human Rights Council (HRC) to promote, protect, and address human rights at a global level,

*Noting* the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) (2007), with a specific emphasis on Articles 3, 4, 5, 19, and 38, as they build on human rights frameworks and highlight Indigenous Peoples' experiences in governance, as it focuses on best practices for minimum standards,

*Considering* the International Labour Organization *Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention* (No. 169) (1989), which further strengthens Indigenous Peoples' rights to self-determination and self-governance by ensuring governments consult with Indigenous Peoples before implementing new policies,

*Recognizing* the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) and the importance of Indigenous traditional knowledge within studies and research on creating best practices with free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) principles in mind,

*Affirming* the importance of strengthening the Universal Periodic Review process to increase digital survey data availability,

*Underlining* the importance of FPIC with an emphasis on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 13 (Climate Action), and 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) for Indigenous Peoples and Vulnerable Populations in governance,

*Highlighting* the importance of the inclusion of Indigenous wisdom in national legislatures, bridging the difference between Indigenous practices and conventional law-making,

*Guided by* the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in its 22nd session in 2023, which emphasizes meaningful representation and participation of Indigenous Peoples in decision-making processes at all levels,

*Declaring* the General Assembly *resolution* 40/131 (1985), which established the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples and has supported more than 3,000 Indigenous representatives to participate in relevant United Nations (UN) mechanisms over the past 38 years,

*Acknowledging* the *Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and implementation of the system-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the UNDRIP* (2024), adopted during the UNPFII 23rd session (2024), that guarantees Indigenous Peoples have an active voice in the UN system,

*Commending* the Indigenous Fellowship Program established by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), for training almost 600 Indigenous Peoples across 70 countries since 1997, to ensure Indigenous Peoples have the knowledge to better advocate for their human rights and local community within the UN system,

*Noting that* the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs reports on Indigenous Peoples right to participate in governance,

*Alarmed by* the immense difference in Indigenous and non-Indigenous participation in national and local governments at a global level, as exemplified by *Beyond Numbers: The Participation of Indigenous Peoples in Parliament* (2014), which shows that only as few as 2.24% of parliamentarians are Indigenous,

*Taking into account* the United Nations Development Program Climate Promise program that provides direct funding grants to Indigenous groups to promote climate change solutions on Indigenous lands and territory and enables them to have direct influence on the state of their territories of living, but recognizes the need to improve upon the amount and the efficiency of help, as recognized by the United Nations Department on Economic and Social Affairs in its *State Of The World's Indigenous Peoples Annual Report* from 2025,

*Emphasizing* that strengthening cooperation and digital inclusion is vital for including Indigenous Peoples in governance,

*Having considered* the need to build state capacity to better serve Indigenous people, as well as tools for this purpose, like the Curriculum on Governance for the SDG published by the UN Department of Public Administration Network,

1. *Supports* the establishment of the “Indigenous Languages App Initiative” coordinated by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and Indigenous-led linguistic institutions, to develop an accessible digital platform that:
  - a. Provides language-learning tools created in collaboration with Indigenous communities, including audio lessons, grammar modules, story-based content, and culturally grounded teaching methods;
  - b. Ensures community ownership by allowing Indigenous groups to control which materials are shared, how they are presented, and in what format;
  - c. Promotes cultural preservation by integrating traditional songs, oral histories, and storytelling into the language-learning process;
  - d. Encourages Member States and tech companies to contribute voluntary funding, technical support, AI tools for speech recognition, and translation resources in line with UNDRIP Articles 13 and 14;
2. *Suggests* Member States adopt an Indigenous-led Educational Governance Initiative focused on improving accessibility of political education and governmental skills for Indigenous youth and women, focusing on:
  - a. Civic, legal, and leadership training related to political participation such as:
    - i. Knowledge about national and international political structures and procedures;
    - ii. Practicing public speaking, research, and collaborative skills;
  - b. Involving local Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge in the program by:
    - i. Consulting current Indigenous political figures in the curation of educational content and skill emphasis;
    - ii. Employing educated Indigenous People as teachers within the program;
    - iii. Encouraging Member States to voluntarily contribute to the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples to finance the implementation of this program;

3. *Recommends* Member States to collaborate with Indigenous Peoples by creating an education program through extending the shared-knowledge programs offered by EMRIP and UN-REDD by:
  - a. Including Indigenous knowledge on topics such as conservation efforts, education, and gender, by strengthening cooperation with existing frameworks;
  - b. Promoting global understanding of Indigenous sustainable conservation efforts and Indigenous approaches to gender recognition and inclusivity, which strengthens Indigenous participation in governance;
4. *Invites* Member States to voluntarily donate to the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples on the UN's International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, observed annually on August 9th, to guarantee Indigenous Peoples can continue to participate in the UN Indigenous working groups;
5. *Welcomes* Member States to ratify the *Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention* (No. 169) to advance the rights of Indigenous Peoples further as identified in Articles 3, 4, and 26.3 of *UNDRIP*, ensuring that governments consult with Indigenous Peoples in a timely and culturally appropriate manner before implementing new policies, further encouraging Indigenous participation at all levels of decision making;
6. *Further invites* the discussion on the creation of a roadmap on expanding the direct cooperation between the UNDP and Indigenous Populations based on existing financing initiatives, such as but not limited to the United Nations Development Program Climate Promise, as one of the examples of positive statistics on increasing the direct financing;
7. *Also recommends* extending the UN Indigenous Fellowship Programme and proposes educational opportunities to Indigenous Populations to strengthen their knowledge of financial management, aimed to:
  - a. Educate representatives on the most effective way of using funding on their environmental needs;
  - b. Develop the skills of Indigenous Populations' leaders to advocate for the needs of community;
  - c. Strengthen the political ability of the Indigenous Peoples by raising the efficiency of their governance through implementing the previously developed knowledge and skills on managing specific environmental challenges;
8. *Encourages* Member States, in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and national human rights institutions, to make use of existing voluntary reporting tools such as: the Indigenous Navigator framework, UNPFII thematic indicators, and OHCHR's Human Rights Indicators, to enhance disaggregated data collection on gender, ethnicity, and Indigenous identity, and further invites OHCHR to compile best practices from these tools into a non-binding reference guide that Member States may choose to adapt to national contexts, including through the development of digital reporting platforms where appropriate;
9. *Advises* Member States to strengthen technical cooperation and capacity building which can be achieved within the framework of the Special Procedures and Advisory Committees which would coordinate with the OHCHR and regional economic commissions such as United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to share expertise on education, digital inclusion, and social development by using UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs's *Curriculum on Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals* as a guiding set of modules for public administrators and academics to refer to;

10. *Further encourages also* the promotion of Human Rights, Economies, and Sustainable Livelihoods, by aligning with the OHCHR initiative on Human Rights Economies which can be done by:
  - a. Collaboration of a technological data-partnership between UNDP, IFAD, and WFP to promote inclusive rural economies and support community-based projects for Indigenous Peoples;
  - b. Expanding digital education and entrepreneurship training models to close technology and opportunity gaps;
11. *Expresses its hope* that Member States promote capacity building programs through Public Private Partnerships for skill transfer, training, and empowerment for Indigenous community members as discussed in UNDRIP and OHCHR;
12. *Asks* the High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish a Global Indigenous Academic Exchange Forum (GIAEF), designed to strengthen the academic and leadership capacities of Indigenous youth by promoting international mobility, collaborative research, and long-term educational partnerships, while ensuring equitable access through comprehensive scholarship support for students from underrepresented communities;
13. *Proposes* the establishment of an Indigenous Cultural Literacy and Awareness Initiative, supported by the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples and implemented voluntarily by Member States willing to participate, including states that do not have Indigenous Peoples, would create free national training programs aimed at increasing public understanding of Indigenous Peoples' history, cultural heritage, and linguistic traditions which:
  - a. Would be funded through the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples;
  - b. Would contribute directly to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by promoting inclusive, culturally grounded learning; SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by addressing knowledge gaps and societal biases; and SDG 17 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) by fostering cooperation between states, Indigenous communities, and UN bodies;
14. *Further suggests* that Member States work with local communities and civic society groups to amplify Indigenous voices in governance such as the *Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform*.



**Code:** HRC/1/3

**Committee:** Human Rights Council

**Topic:** UNDRIP and the Participation of Indigenous Populations in Governance

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*The Human Rights Council,*

*Affirming the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights'* definition on self-determination stating that all Peoples have the right to freely determine their political status and pursue their economic, social and cultural development within their own vision,

*Guided* by the principles of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), specifically its emphasis on international cooperation in education and in culture,

*Emphasizing* the institutional protections for Indigenous Peoples in enshrined in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) (2007),

*Having Constituted* the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and appealing to their role in the support of governments through technical assistance, capacity building, and legal advice,

*Alarmed* by the OHCHR survey that found only 43% of respondents were familiar with UNDRIP and their consultation rights where Indigenous Peoples' lack of right to self-determination and the ignorance of UNDRIP articles 18 and 19, which ensure Indigenous participation in decision-making and the consultation of Indigenous groups on state decisions that would affect them, also known as the principle of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC),

*Noting the importance* of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) framework to promote the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in peace dialogues, post-conflict reconstruction, and reconciliation processes,

*Conscious of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) (2015) and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 (Quality Education), specifically target 4.5, which targets gender disparities in education and ensures equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for all, including Indigenous Peoples,

*Considering Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169* (1989) from the International Labour Organization (ILO), which requires nations to take the traditions and ways of life of Indigenous groups into consideration when developing policy,

*Recalling* the principles enshrined in General Assembly (GA) resolution 52/108 (1997), which encourages consultations between Indigenous Peoples in governments in the creation of policies and programmes and plans for actions that recognize Indigenous autonomy in the pursuit of building trust and engagement from Indigenous Peoples,

*Deeply appreciative of* the Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 6/36 (2007), which mandated the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), which provides regular periodic updates on the rights of Indigenous Peoples around the world,

*Confident in* the importance of education and the *General Assembly* resolution 77/203 (2023) as well as the *Universal Declaration on Human Rights* (UDHR) article 26, which calls on Member States to promote Indigenous Peoples' in governance and support education as a key tool of empowerment,

*Keeping in mind* that inclusive and culturally appropriate education is essential for strengthening the capacity of Indigenous Peoples to participate meaningfully in governance and decision-making processes at all levels,

*Noting also* the need for comprehensive education improvements that promotes dual language schools that include both national and Indigenous languages,

*Acknowledging* the work of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), specifically the work with Indigenous education and awareness-raising efforts,

*Realizing* the importance of gathering statistics through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for understanding how Indigenous Peoples are currently being involved within governance structures creating visibility,

*Noting with concern* General Assembly resolution 78/265 (2024), which acknowledges the impact of the ever-evolving technology that is Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the international political system and the need to realize the effects of it on traditional knowledge keeping, and Indigenous populations to guarantee identity and cultural protections of Indigenous Data as stated in the HRC resolution 60/66 (2025),

*Deeply concerned* by the extreme poverty experienced within the Indigenous community rooted in dark legacy of colonialism,

*Taking into consideration* the lack of awareness about Indigenous Peoples' issues among Member States with scarce, nonexistent, or unrecognized Indigenous Populations,

*Believing* that transnational cooperation between Member States with large Indigenous representation and those without it can strengthen the global inclusivity and educationally contribute with a knowledge-sharing to countries who protect the interests of their ethnic and national minorities,

*Bearing in mind*, the voluntary financial contribution to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous People (UNVFIP) to expand their participation in educational exchanges throughout Member States, cherishing linguistic and historical experience,

*Observing* the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)'s report *Building Transparent, Accountable & Inclusive Institutions* (2021) and the valuable resources it offers for building Indigenous equity and education, such as the *Toolkit on Transparency, Accountability and Ethics in Public Institutions* and *Curriculum on Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals*,

*Conscious of* the work the International Work Group of Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) has done to protect and defend Indigenous Peoples individual and collective rights since 1968,

*Appreciating* the work done and principles highlighted by UNESCO in the report *Languages Matter: a Global Guide on Multilingual Education* (2025),

1. *Encourages* the establishment of UN-supported training educational hubs, in accordance with articles 14, 21, 38 and 39 of the UNDRIP to strengthen the administrative, legal and diplomatic capacity of Indigenous representatives, particularly in regions where access to inclusive and culturally appropriate education remains limited, with increasing the Indigenous representation in governance;
2. *Welcomes* Member States to incorporate consultative mechanisms to ensure FPIC, including recommendations from Article 18 of UNDRIP, prior to major development educational programmes concerning Indigenous studies, particularly cherishing cultural heritage and resources to increase the level of knowledge about Indigenous nations;
3. *Recommends* Member States build upon UNPFII to create a platform concerning cultural heritage and Indigenous history in conjunction with targeted educational scholarships such as UNDRIP Articles 11, 12, 13, and 14, which specifically address rights concerning cultural heritage, history, education, and language, the ultimate mandate for the creation of the platform and scholarships for Indigenous Peoples;
4. *Recommends* the integration of Indigenous governance practices into cross-cultural curriculum exchange programmes under UNESCO, facilitated through:

- a. Ensuring cooperation with Indigenous community councils, national education ministries, national academic institutions, UN mechanisms such as UNPFII and EMRIP, with the aim of advancing mutual understanding;
  - b. Preserving traditional knowledge systems, and strengthening Indigenous participation in contemporary governance structures;
5. *Suggests* that Member States prioritize and invest in comprehensive education programs designed to empower Indigenous Peoples' active and meaningful participation in governance, in accordance with the guidance and objectives set forth from the General Assembly resolution 77/203 (2023) by:
  - a. Developing and implementing culturally relevant curricula that incorporate Indigenous languages, histories, governance systems, and rights awareness, which may be co-designed by Indigenous leaders and elders to ensure accuracy and authenticity;
  - b. Ensuring education programs utilize accessible and inclusive learning platforms, including community based forums, mobile and digital technologies, and radio broadcasts to reach remote or marginalized populations;
  - c. Providing initiatives that focus on enhancing skills in leadership, and political literacy, with a special emphasis on the empowerment of women and youth;
6. *Encourages* Member States, in conjunction with the OHCHR, to improve the accessibility of education for Indigenous Peoples by:
  - a. Providing affordable, high-quality education based on L1 (home language) instruction and inclusive school cultures, as described by UNESCO in *Languages Matter: a Global Guide to Multilingual Education* (2025);
  - b. Investing through voluntary contribution by Member States to The UN Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review;
7. *Requests* the voluntary integration of education as a basic universal right in Member States' respective constitutions on national, regional, and international levels in order to improve the accessibility of education;
8. *Invites* Member States to work with the IWGIA, the UNPFII, and similar non-governmental organizations to develop initiatives that would strengthen education and awareness for non-Indigenous individuals regarding history, culture, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples to prevent exploitation and ensure protection for Indigenous Peoples;
9. *Designates* the UPR to expand research into the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in governance structures to gain an understanding of FPIC procedures in that Member State, ensuring progress and accountability by:
  - a. Using the *Toolkit on Transparency, Accountability and Ethics in Public Institutions*, as published by the UN DESA in the 2021 report *Building Transparent, Accountable & Inclusive Institutions* as the foundation for UPR criteria;
  - b. Highlighting the *Curriculum on Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals* from the same report as a way to review and ensure intergenerational equity;
  - c. Mandating the UPR to conduct consistent reviews of Indigenous inclusion in governance to ensure progress for Member States with Indigenous Populations;



10. *Calls upon* EMRIP to mandate a study to understand how Indigenous Data interacts with AI training and its effects on FPIC and self-determination, which will provide recommendations on how to regulate AI so Indigenous voices do not become co-opted;
11. *Recommends* Member States to work with NGOs such as the IWGIA and ILED network to research and develop leadership education in the pursuit of bridging the gap between political governments and local community leaders, taking inspiration and sustainable development ideas from the knowledge within Indigenous Peoples through:
  - a. Designation of leadership roles in educational institutions with emphasis on placing strong women in positions of governance in order to increase their voices and promote visibility on gender issues including gender based violence, and transmission of sexually transmitted diseases;
  - b. Development of programmes that address child development, fostering and encouraging young Indigenous Peoples with aspirations for leadership roles within their Peoples and beyond, ensuring the presence of strong leaders who can advocate for marginalized Peoples;
12. *Requests* that Member States foster the development of departments within their governments that address the economic needs of Indigenous Populations by:
  - a. Pursuing domestic educational programs about local Indigenous populations that seek to thoroughly inform the public about Indigenous history, languages, traditions, and cultures;
  - b. Addressing barriers to education for Indigenous groups, such as geographic isolation, by funding transportation services and improving communication technology, and also lack of educational affordability, by strengthening funding programs and voluntary funds;
  - c. Creating and promoting leadership training programs for Indigenous leaders and Peoples, to support their autonomy and efficiency when participating in governance;
13. *Recommends* building on the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) framework to promote the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in peace dialogues, post-conflict reconstruction, and reconciliation processes, facilitated by:
  - a. Encouraging states to make voluntary commitments to include Indigenous representatives in national peace and mediation mechanisms, thereby ensuring cultural sensitivity and community-based ownership;
  - b. Advising Member States to share lessons from their National Reconciliation and Peacebuilding initiatives by applying to support inclusive, community-driven governance models elsewhere;
  - c. Recommends establishing public-private partnerships to include collaboration with research institutions, civil society, and the private sector to promote Indigenous innovation and entrepreneurship within the climate and technology sectors;
14. *Recommends* the implementation of the “United Nations Seal of Indigenous Approval” to promote legislation that supports Indigenous Peoples through:
  - a. Adhering to the authority of EMRIP, reviewing proposed legislation and policies in Member States that impact Indigenous Peoples on an opt-in/opt-out basis;

- b. Considering if these proposals have been made with FPIC in mind by establishing a set of criteria including confirmation of collaboration with Indigenous and ethnic minority Peoples and ensuring the law will not violate the autonomy of any existing Indigenous populations;
  - c. Considering them in collaboration with local Indigenous leaders and elders;
  - d. Recording the proposals that benefit Indigenous Peoples and creating a seal to be placed upon them, symbolizing the official endorsement of the UN;
- 15. *Encourages* the implementation and maintenance of dual language schools or education systems in areas with concentrated Indigenous populations to:
  - a. Confirm Member States' commitment to preserving Indigenous language classes thus preserving connections to Indigenous Peoples' heritage and history in school settings, to combat the difficulty in communicating between various unique Indigenous Peoples due to geographical constraints and supports the implementation of language alignment through bilingual education;
  - b. Consider the need for educational programmes to inform Indigenous Peoples of their representation both on a regional and national level;
- 16. *Suggests* a roadmap of policy development aimed to educate young people of the Member States with underrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples about Indigenous Peoples' issues and increase cultural cooperation with the young people from states with comparably large Indigenous Peoples, especially concentrated on educational component, including:
  - a. Knowledge sharing through educational exchange;
  - b. Promotion of Indigenous linguistic and cultural studies provided by Indigenous native speakers in educational institutions in regions with underrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples;
  - c. Interregional youth forums on actual issues faced by Indigenous Peoples;
- 17. *Recommends* the expansion of youth working groups formation under the supervision of the UN Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) to find the ways for integration of knowledge gained during mentioned transnational exchanges into policy making processes related to addressing regional inclusivity, and diversity issues;
- 18. *Emphasizing* the need for actionable steps to be taken based on the recommendations made by the UNPFII, potentially through a subsidiary council, made up of representatives selected by Indigenous Peoples, authorized to take such actions through supporting policy development, strengthening participation mechanisms, and monitoring the implementation of UNDRIP principles.



**Code:** HRC/1/4

**Committee:** Human Rights Council

**Topic:** UNDRIP and the Participation of Indigenous Populations In Governance

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*The Human Rights Council,*

*Recalling* the Human Rights Council (HRC) mandate of promoting and protecting human rights for all,

*Reaffirming* the sentiments of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) that acknowledge education as a basic Indigenous right and as a tool for empowerment, specifically through Articles 14, 15, and 17; the Indigenous right to self-determination, particularly through Articles 4 and 5; and the rights and special needs of Indigenous elders, women, youth, children, and persons with disabilities, through Article 22,

*Bearing in mind* the need for practical and adaptable mechanisms that enhance Indigenous participation in national legislative and administrative processes,

*Noting with approval* the UN System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP), which promotes improving UN planning, programming, and results for gender equality and the empowerment of women,

*Underlining* the importance of inclusive language representation within all levels of government,

*Reaffirming* the International Labor Organization (ILO) *Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169* and its role in ensuring effective, open, and inclusive communication between Indigenous Peoples and governmental representatives,

*Calling attention to* the *Toolkit on Transparency, Accountability and Ethics in Public Institutions* from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) report *Building Transparent, Accountable & Inclusive Institutions* (2021),

*Emphasizing* that education is key to eliminating discrimination and promoting respect for Indigenous Peoples, as iterated in 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4: Quality Education, specifically target 4.5 that focuses on ensuring equal educational access for marginalized groups such as Indigenous Peoples,

*Underlining* the importance of accessible, inclusive and culturally sensitive education as an instrument for strengthening the rights of Indigenous Peoples,

*Understanding* the importance of ensuring that marginalized groups within Indigenous, ethnic, and linguistic minority communities, including women, children, and the elderly, are also equally represented in all levels of government to ensure equity,

*Emphasizing* the importance of equity, particularly for Indigenous women, especially in governance, particularly within the context of achieving SDG 5: Gender Equality,

*Acknowledging* General Assembly resolution 57/249 (2003), which emphasizes the rights of women and the importance of recognizing cultures in combating discrimination,

*Deeply alarmed* that in 2014, an Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) survey found that 987 out of 44,000 world Members of Parliament were Indigenous, and only 20% of the 987 were Indigenous women,

*Reaffirming* the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, which stresses the importance of women in government, with a specific emphasis on the leadership role of Indigenous women,

1. *Encourages* expansion on the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) to include an advisory sub-board inviting Indigenous individuals from multiple regions, thus contributing another vital perspective alongside already provided expertise that:
  - a. Includes Indigenous young adults and youth between the ages of 15 and 25;
  - b. Consists of members from various ethnic and linguistic minorities whom the policies directly impact, including but not limited to those self-identifying as traditionally Indigenous;
  - c. Advises on Member State policies that legalize the requirements to be considered Indigenous as well as determine who can address domestic resources such as specialized funding and scholarships by:
    - i. Requesting Member States review the requirements used to legally prove that Indigenous communities have been on their land for extended periods of time;
    - ii. Including object proof, oral history, and individual language;
2. *Recommends* utilizing the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to conduct discussions with Indigenous Peoples about policy, in respect of their free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) by:
  - a. Utilizing the investigative measures of the UNPFII to conduct voluntary investigations into Member States to address areas where Indigenous Peoples are underrepresented in both policy and practice;
  - b. Employing the UPR in collaboration with the UNPFII to continue to create reports advising Member States on best practices for inclusive representation, and collecting holistic data on the number of Indigenous Peoples in governance;
3. *Welcomes* global cooperation between Member States, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNPFII, and regional Indigenous and ethnic communities to create a language database to ensure easier access for Indigenous communities to be politically informed and participate in local, state, national, and international governments by:
  - a. Working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as the Rosetta Project, the Living Tongue Institute for Endangered Languages, or FirstVoices, to collaborate with Indigenous and ethnic minority communities to document and preserve the written and oral languages of these communities;
  - b. Incorporating this language database into local and regional educational programs to help provide widespread access of political information to Indigenous communities to increase awareness and representation;
  - c. Utilizing smart technology models, while maintaining environmentally friendly practices with consultation from environmental forums such as the UN Environmental Assembly (UNEA) and UN Environmental Programme (UNEP), to translate political materials into various Indigenous and ethnic minority languages to ensure that it is accessible to all communities across various regions;
4. *Encourages* the enhancement of the SWAP through strengthened data collection on Indigenous participation in municipal, regional, and national governance, development, and climate action through:

- a. Developing standardized methodologies for the collection of disaggregated data on Indigenous participation across UN agencies, such as aligning census and survey instruments with the UN Statistical Commission's Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses to identify indigenous peoples and their participation in government;
  - b. Supporting capacity-building initiatives for national and local institutions to improve data gathering and reporting with particular integration of open, direct dialogue between Indigenous and local government;
  - c. Establishing collaborative platforms with Indigenous communities, experts, and organizations to ensure culturally appropriate data-collection practices; nonindigenous representatives in alignment with FPIC;
5. *Suggests* Member States organize a National Network of Indigenous-Led Policy Coordination Centers that will:
  - a. Be co-created with Indigenous and ethnic minority groups across all Member States to honor various modes of traditional decision-making and align with FPIC principles;
  - b. Be funded and supported by the International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), especially their General Operating Support Grant;
  - c. Allow Indigenous and ethnic minority groups to participate in decision-making to determine policy initiatives that honor their lived experiences and practices;
  - d. Have defined objective(s) and outcomes for each policy to serve as performance indicators for monitoring the efficacy of policies;
  - e. Meet semi-annually to compare policy outcomes with the intent of identifying gaps and share successes;
6. *Encourages* Member States to promote FPIC through local, historic, and educational initiatives that include cultural materials on the history, identity, governance systems, and legal rights of Indigenous Peoples, ensuring that such programs are co-created with Indigenous scholars and community elders, emphasizing both traditional knowledge systems and contemporary Indigenous contributions to society by:
  - a) Encouraging public information campaigns, including social media platforms, media broadcasts aimed at highlighting the role of Indigenous Peoples in public life and governance;
  - b) Welcoming the expansion of EMRIP to organize annual National Indigenous Awareness Week seminars, exhibitions, and open debates on Indigenous rights and political participation;
7. *Requests* that Member States, in collaboration with UN initiatives and NGOs, establish teacher training modules for specialized courses on Indigenous rights and traditional governance models funded by the International Finance Facility for Education (IFFEd) by promoting the integration of Indigenous languages into national education systems including the development of bilingual textbooks, teacher training modules, and digital learning tools to safeguard linguistic heritage;

8. *Encourages* Member States to participate in broadening citizen engagement, including that of Indigenous Peoples, as part of the wider community outreach initiative to ensure the openness of information by:
  - a. Introducing inclusive monitoring mechanisms of participating Indigenous Peoples in decision making processes at local, regional, national, and international levels;
  - b. Collecting anonymous data on Indigenous civic engagement through national processing, which will aid in understanding the state of Indigenous representation in decision making;
9. *Recommends* Member States foster political trust by appointing Indigenous community leaders to serve as representatives through direct collaboration, with respect to FPIC, to present information and consensus about the effects of policy and procedure on Indigenous Peoples in front of local, national, and international governments to ensure communication and collaboration between both Indigenous Peoples and governments;
10. *Welcomes* the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, in coordination with relevant UN agencies, to convene regular multistakeholder consultation sessions aimed at strengthening the reintegration of Indigenous women and children into governance process, with a view to enhancing policy frameworks that safeguard the rights and self-determination of Indigenous nations;
11. *Invites* Member States to partner with NGOs to advocate for women's participation in government, pushing for the expansion of equitable institutions, with a specific focus on Indigenous women's rights and representation, supporting Indigenous women in leadership roles, acknowledging that Indigenous women are traditionally leaders within their communities;
12. *Calls* for the expansion and/or implementation of women-only buses similar to those established by the United Nations Women Safe Public Transport Programme in Australia, and those established by Mexico City Women's Institute in collaboration with UN Women, to be funded by voluntary contributions and collaborations with local nonprofit and private partnerships, thus empowering Indigenous women to safely participate in civil society, further ensuring their participation in all levels of government;
13. *Encourages* Member States to expand educational programmes and special courses already in place that follow the ideals of FPIC and self-determination as guiding principles and empower Indigenous women and children by discussing solidarity and inclusive representation in governance by:
  - a. Cooperating with Indigenous lecturers who can inspire by their own experience;
  - b. Ensuring any non-Indigenous lecturers obtain training by local Indigenous leaders to better understand specific barriers for Indigenous women and youth;
  - c. Creating a special focus on the content of the material on motivation and advocacy techniques in government;
14. *Recommends* building upon the existing UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples by encouraging Member States, in cooperation with independent donors from the Member States, to expand voluntary scholarships and grant programmes that specifically enhance educational access for Indigenous women and children from marginalized communities, further strengthening the Fund through culturally grounded mentorship networks targeted

capacity-building schemes designed to support long-term participation in governance and public decision-making;

15. *Invites* international donors and Member States to support the establishment of an annual “Indigenous Summit,” that would be held every year in November, aligned with the principle articles of UNDRIP (14, 21, 38) and complementing the advisory work of EMPIC and the consultative mandate of UNPFII, serving as a high-level platform for accessing progress and strengthening policies on the educational inclusion of indigenous women and children as a foundation for their meaningful participation and potential representation in governance;
16. *Requests* the creation of the “Indigenous Cultural Youth Camps Initiative” (ICYCI), a voluntary program available to Member States and relevant stakeholders, aimed at creating Indigenous-led and operated children’s camps and summer educational courses that:
  - a. Will be supported through the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);
  - b. Extends immersive learning experiences for youth focused on Indigenous cultures, traditional practices, oral histories, music, and languages, while fostering mutual understanding and respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities;
  - c. Continues to support SDG 4 by promoting inclusive cultural learning, SDG 10 by strengthening social cohesion, and SDG 17 through collaboration between governments, Indigenous communities, and UN bodies;
17. *Invites* Member States to focus on support regarding emotional and psychological health and access to mental health services, rooted in the understanding of the toll it takes for any individual to participate in governance, especially Indigenous Peoples given their vicious experiences in discrimination and marginalization by:
  - a. Encouraging collaboration between regions and Member States with UN-led mental health initiatives and NGOs such as the World Health Organization (WHO) Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013–2030, World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH), International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP), and others to provide resources such as pamphlets and technological resources targeted to Indigenous communities, especially those involved in governance positions;
  - b. Destigmatizing mental health in Indigenous communities through outreach programs that collaborate with the aforementioned NGOs to increase empathy and support to Indigenous women in governance.



**Code:** HRC/1/5

**Committee:** Human Rights Council

**Topic:** UNDRIP and the Participation of Indigenous Populations in Governance

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*The Human Rights Council,*

*Emphasizing the United Nations Charter (1945) and the codified right to self-determination,*

*Acknowledging the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1945),*

*Bearing in mind the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world,*

*Emphasizing the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015) under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) - specifically SDGs 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and 3 (Health and Wellbeing) - and their relevance to the topic of Indigenous governance,*

*Acknowledging the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Rights (UNDRIP) (2007) and its role in protecting Indigenous Peoples globally,*

*Recalling Article 26 of UNDRIP, which protects the right of Indigenous Peoples to own, use, and occupy lands generationally owned by their communities,*

*Recognizing the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' (OHCHR) initiative on Human Rights Economies, which promotes the integration of human rights principles into national development planning,*

*Recalling the Human Rights Council's (HRC) role in ensuring that all - including Indigenous Peoples - have equal and equitable rights to self-determination, advocacy, and way of life,*

*Acknowledging the profound psychological and spiritual consequences within Indigenous populations stemming from the loss of lands,*

*Emphasizing the need for more ecologically-focused policy that emphasizes the ability of certain Indigenous and ethnic groups to maintain their livelihoods through the harmony between humanity and nature,*

*Keeping in mind the unique historical and contemporary relationship Indigenous Peoples have with their lands, territories, and resources, and the vital importance of their traditional governance structures and justice systems for their well-being and cultural continuity,*

*Taking into consideration that inclusive, community-driven economic models supported by Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), Inter-governmental Organizations (IGOs), and investments in education and digital literacy that are essential for empowering Indigenous Peoples to participate in modern economies while preserving their cultural traditions,*

*Emphasizing the importance of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) as one of the primary bodies for ensuring that Indigenous issues are addressed on a global scale, including within national legislation,*

*Acknowledging the work of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) in surveying Indigenous populations, advising advocacy efforts related to the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and overseeing data related to Indigenous populations,*

*Noting the diversity of national legal systems and the varying degrees to which Member States recognise customary, ancestral, or communal land tenure traditions,*



*Taking into consideration* concerns raised by Member States regarding the legal complexity, economic challenges, and administrative burden of recognising Indigenous land claims,

*Stressing its desire* to continually protect Indigenous Peoples' unique connection to the land, ensuring the continuation of cultural heritage and protection of meaningful Indigenous connection to territory,

*Acknowledging* the right to self-determination affirmed in the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1966) and the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (1966), enabling peoples to determine their political status and pursue development,

1. *Welcomes* Special Procedures that will, in consenting Member States, do the following:
  - a. Conduct field visits to inspect lands historically owned by Indigenous Peoples that were previously claimed by the government for the specific purpose of determining if the lands are currently being used for ceremonial purposes or for resource retrieval to better inform policies regarding land rights and stewardship with Indigenous land ownership in mind;
  - b. Implement a localized complaint procedure system via a municipally-managed forum modeled on the UNFPIL's international forum and accountability framework to allow for Indigenous Peoples to easily and accessibly report violations of their land ownership or inherent right to use unowned land within their ancestral regions;
  - c. Survey Indigenous Peoples across globally on their unique needs and current domestic or regional legislation to better allow the international community to target these issues via positive policy frameworks with Indigenous communities in mind;
  - d. Survey Indigenous populations to further understand the psychological and spiritual consequences that follow the loss of land among Indigenous groups that can then be used to inform future legislation related to protecting the mental health and wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples globally pursuant to SDG 3 (Health and Wellbeing);
  - e. Implement independent reporting, via a Special Rapporteur, on the progress, outcomes, and challenges related to Indigenous land-tenure reforms, including efforts to address the legacy of dispossession linked to terra nullius doctrines and strengthen recognition of longstanding Indigenous occupation;
2. *Encourage* that EMRIP, in collaboration with the UNPFII and the Special Rapporteur compile data from past reports to collate a global repository of Indigenous best practices that:
  - a. Collects documents within the EMRIP, UNPFII, and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) database that contain wisdom and successes of Indigenous groups globally in subsistence practices;
  - b. The data will be updated every four years to ensure up-to-date reflections of Indigenous insights;
  - c. Invites Member States to incorporate successful case studies into domestic practices to ensure multilateral success in Indigenous governance, including but not limited to legislative reform guided by the other Member States' recognition process of Indigenous land rights and embedding Indigenous groups' successful land management strategies into domestic sustainability practices;
3. *Recommends* the adoption of an 'Indigenous Voice Framework' that enables Member States to establish state-funded Indigenous advisory bodies, designed in consultation with state-

specific Indigenous communities and adapted to national and constitutional contexts, which includes:

- a. Structured pathways that incorporate Indigenous perspectives into national legislative deliberations, including participation in legislative committee hearings or relevant government proceedings, submission of formal opinions on draft legislation, routine consultation during regulatory and policy review cycles, and preambular acknowledgement of Indigenous land ownership within national constitutions;
  - b. Implementing clear, culturally appropriate channels for Indigenous Peoples to raise issues affecting their communities, through measures such as community-based liaison networks, digital and in-person consultation platforms accessible to remote and rural populations, and transparent feedback procedures that ensure government responses are communicated to Indigenous communities;
  - c. The wisdom of Indigenous elders and the unique perspectives of Indigenous women are included through representatives who are chosen based on the natural divisions of Indigenous People within their respective regions and whereby representatives are to be updated every 5 to 10 years, at the discretion of the responsible Member States;
  - d. Assistive measures to allow for the framework to be integrated into existing legislative and administrative systems to promote institutional coherence, including through integration with existing national advisory councils, embedding advisory functions within established government ministries or parliamentary bodies, and ensuring adequate resourcing and technical support to facilitate meaningful Indigenous participation;
  - e. Monitoring of utilisation, outcomes, and effectiveness of the 'Indigenous Voice Framework' be incorporated into the UPR cycle through voluntary reporting on progress, challenges, and good practices, engagement with Indigenous representatives during national report preparation, and inclusion of quantitative data on participation rates, policy influence, and measurable improvements in responsiveness;
4. *Suggests* Member States collaborate with the HRC to adopt the OHCHR initiative on Human Rights Economies by integrating human rights into national development planning by expanding legislation that:
- a. Facilitates collaboration with NGOs and IGOs that promote inclusive rural economies and support community-based projects for Indigenous Peoples;
  - b. Expands existing education and digital literacy programs initiatives that empower local and Indigenous communities to participate in modern economies while preserving cultural traditions;
  - c. Encourages dialogue-oriented laws that focus on constructive dialogue and cooperative frameworks;
5. *Encourages* Member States, in consultation with Indigenous communities, to review, update, and operationalise domestic mechanisms for the recognition and protection of traditional land rights, including those grounded in longstanding occupation continuity of cultural connection and pre-sovereignty custodianship, inter alia by:

- a. Establishing or strengthening statutory procedures for the registration, participatory mapping, verification and adjudication of customary land claims, ensuring that evidentiary frameworks explicitly reject doctrines akin to terra nullius;
  - b. Recommending time-bound national action plans to progressively strengthen land tenure in alignment with UNDRIP obligations, including steps to address the historical impacts of terra nullius-based policies where relevant;
- 6. *Invites* Member States for whom comprehensive land-restitution and land-usage schemes are not feasible to adopt context-appropriate tenure-security pathways that still recognise historical occupancy and enduring cultural relationships to land, such as via governance management measures like:
  - a. Long-term use agreements that legally guarantee rights to occupy, cultivate, or maintain cultural practices on ancestral territories without requiring extinguishment or transfer of underlying title;
  - b. A formal recognition of, through constitutional or specific domestic legislation, the inherent right of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination, which includes guaranteed autonomy and self-government over their internal and local affairs, including but not limited to the administration of health services, education systems, justice mechanisms, and the governance and management of Indigenous lands, territories, and resources;
- 7. *Welcomes* Member States to establish, in meaningful consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, robust legal provisions for the official recognition, respect, and enforcement of Indigenous justice systems, customary laws, and traditional land tenure systems within national legal frameworks, ensuring that such recognition operates without prejudice to internationally recognized human rights standards;
- 8. *Reaffirming* the value of co-management or joint-governance arrangements over forests, waters, sacred sites, or protected areas, with clearly defined decision-making roles for Indigenous authorities and recognition of pre-existing custodial responsibilities, such as by encouraging the embedding of Indigenous land-use practices into national spatial planning frameworks, environmental permitting processes, and protected-area governance.



**Code:** HRC/1/6

**Committee:** Human Rights Council

**Topic:** UNDRIP and the Participation of Indigenous Populations In Governance

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*The Human Rights Council,*

*Noting* the importance of preserving traditional self-governance models of Indigenous Peoples and minorities in line with UNDRIP,

*Applauding* previous efforts of Member States to include rights of self-governance in national constitutions, laws, and policies,

*Acknowledging* the importance of national autonomy and national priorities, while still respecting Indigenous self-determination and institutions in line with Articles 2 and 3 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP),

*Recognizing* the lack of regional-level frameworks for Indigenous Peoples and minorities' self-governance within Member States,

*Recalling* the importance of working towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions), particularly noting SDG targets 16.3 (promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice) and 16.7 (ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making),

*Emphasizing* that the consultation of development projects on Indigenous lands is essential for working towards SDG target 1.4.2 (ensuring that all have equal rights to ownership and control over land and other forms of property),

*Expressing its serious concern* that many Member States view the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as a formality instead of a human right,

*Bearing in mind* General Assembly resolution 61/295 (2007), encouraging the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for Indigenous territories as they are essential to their identity, cultural heritage, and survival,

*Alarmed by* the lack of representation and inclusion of Indigenous populations in local and national governance and its importance of protecting vulnerable populations' rights to land preservation through international frameworks,

1. *Suggests* the implementation of regional monitoring advisory bodies overseen and reviewed by the United Nations General Assembly Third Committee that will:
  - a. Review the recommended policy to expand the regional expansion of Indigenous governance by regional partners that nationally surveys applicable changes towards further implementing policy for ethnic minority representation within governance by:
    - i. Developing established regional organizations to advance the possible implementation of surveyed recommendations;
    - ii. Introducing a review period of six months towards the solidification of the recommended policy by participating Member States;
  - b. Suggest facilitating communication between regional bodies and the broader UN system so that localized insights, such as those from the African Community Resource Rights Alliance (ACRRA), inform global policy decisions;
2. *Recommends* Member States create regional commissions on the right to self-governance that:

- a. Designate oversight of the commissions to the given body of the Member State, typically tasked with the oversight of Indigenous and minority rights, in partnership with recognized Indigenous and minority bodies of governance;
  - b. Support a framework by which regions may choose to work together to review and propose institutional mechanisms that:
    - i. Encourage that framework to be one that proportionally represents Indigenous Peoples and minorities in regional commissions;
    - ii. Note that the method of cooperation between the government and the commissions should be determined amongst themselves;
  - c. Introduce an opportunity for regional commissions to bring their proposals to the national governing body;
  - d. Emphasize unifying action on the right to self-governance between the regional and national governments;
3. *Requests* that the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, renewed in HRC resolution 51/16 (2022), implement a study that will examine national constitutions, laws, and policies ensuring Indigenous and minority rights to their traditional forms of self-governance locally, making sure to:
  - a. Note the correlation between this and Indigenous involvement in national governance and judicial systems;
  - b. Consider how successfully these actions have been implemented and practiced over time;
  - c. Acknowledge how these regional actions satisfy the goals of SDG 16;
  - d. Examine the difference in Indigenous and ethnic minority quality of life in these countries as compared to countries with no laws or policies establishing these rights to traditional forms of self-governance;
  - e. Compile the national studies into an international report to be distributed to Member States, outlining the following:
    - i. Commonalities in successful Member State inclusion of self-governance of minorities;
    - ii. Factors contributing to shortcomings in national action on this front;
    - iii. Possible steps forward, both by national governments and local Indigenous and minority governments;
  - f. Encourage the gradual, optional implementation of those success factors nationally and locally;
4. *Encourages* the need to monitor and evaluate the compliance of Member States with the Regional Framework for FPIC enforcement through the use of pre-established rights laid out in Articles 16 and 32 of UNDRIP, ensuring its continued implementation by:
  - a. Reaffirming its belief that through using the UNDRIP article 16, Indigenous Peoples and minorities will have complete autonomy over the use of traditional language in their media;
  - b. Confirming the use of UNDRIP Article 32 in the framework to help establish the good faith cooperation between Member States and their Indigenous Peoples and minority populations;

- c. Further inviting the cooperation between Indigenous Peoples and minorities, as well as private sector organizations, for the security and use of the land to maintain regional autonomy, and promote sustainable use and practices through conferences, which:
    - i. Will be held on the land with the approval of the Indigenous Peoples or minority populations on an as-needed basis;
    - ii. Will be funded by voluntary contributions from said private sector organizations;
  - d. Stressing its readiness to use bodies, such as UN-Habitat and the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA):
    - i. Recommends the use of UN-Habitat for the use of land surveying tools, as well as their framework for the use of self-maintenance and reporting systems;
    - ii. Considers using the IWGIA to help Indigenous Peoples and minorities set up autonomous regional governance and exercise their self-determination, as well as defend their lands from illegal occupation and exploitation of resources on said land;
- 5. Recommends the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in close cooperation with the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), to support the establishment of Local Indigenous Cultural Hubs (LICH) in Member States willing to host such a consultative mechanism, ensuring that these hubs function as localized extensions of EMRIP's advisory and capacity-building work by:
  - a. Designating the Hubs as formal consultative and advisory bodies to the State, mandated to provide expert guidance on Indigenous rights, cultural preservation, and participation in governance;
  - b. Ensuring that the Hubs are composed primarily of representatives of Indigenous Peoples, so that all consultations, recommendations, and cultural activities remain Indigenous-led and grounded in UNDRIP principles;
  - c. Welcoming the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all necessary human, technical, and financial assistance to EMRIP, enabling it to effectively oversee, support, and strengthen the work of these Hubs in participating Member States;
- 6. *Encourages* Member States to further collaborate in the participation of international frameworks addressed in protecting Indigenous land rights, such as the UNDRIP framework promoting SDG 16, and General Assembly resolution 61/295 (2007) Article 2, focused on the prevention of actions that aim or affect the dispossession of Indigenous lands, territories, or resources.